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## BIRTHS.

On the 11th September, at Swatow, the wife of S. J. GRAINGER, Imperial Maritime Customs, of a daughter, which only survived a few hours.

On the 15th September, at 41, Elgin Terrace, Hongkong, the wife of C. E. OSMUND, of a daughter.

## MARRIAGE.

On the 3rd September, 1898, at St. Joseph's Church, Shanghai, by the Rev. Father Rouxel, and at the British Consulate-General, by Byron Brennan, Esq., Consul-General, IVOR J. THOMAS, to LILY MARY YEOMANS.

## DEATHS.

At Nagasaki, on the 30th August, at 1 p.m., JOHN D. MCPHERSON, late Chief Engineer of the steamer *Glenlochy*.

At Yokohama, on the 31st August, at No. 62, Bluff, Mrs. W. H. HARDY, widow of the late Capt. W. H. HARDY, in her 34th year.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 8th September, 1898, CARLOS J. DA ROCHA, aged 35 years.

## ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The French mail of the 12th August arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 10th September (29 days); the American mail of the 13th August arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 10th September (28 days); the Canadian mail of the 22nd August arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 14th September (23 days); and the English mail of the 18th August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 16th September (29 days).

## EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

On the 3rd September a fire occurred in the godowns of Messrs. Speidel & Co. at Saigon. The estimated damage was over \$100,000, which is covered by insurance.

From Canton we learn that the Viceroy's petition to be allowed to resign has been definitely refused, but His Excellency has been granted two months' leave for the recuperation of his health.

It is reported from Tientsin that at a recent inspection and trial by the Peiyang Naval Board Commissioners of the new German-built cruisers *Haiyung* and *Haicheng*, the speed attained by the two vessels was over 21 knots an hour, being more than the speed contracted for.—*N. C. Daily News*.

We understand that Mr. H. Hildebrand has left Shanghai for Shantung to complete the surveys for and begin the construction of the projected system of railways in that Province. We wish him all the success that has crowned his work in connection with the Shanghai-Woosung line, just completed.—*China Gazette*.

There is every reason to believe, in spite of doubts expressed by the home papers, that Captain W. M. Lang, R.N., is coming out to undertake the reorganisation of the Chinese Navy. We learn from a reliable source that Captain Lang will in all probability leave England some time next month, bringing with him a staff of some 35 instructors.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Paotingsfu correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 30th ult.:—The railway is in running order from Peking to Chocho, 190 li from Paotingsfu, and the track is laid to a point 30 li this side of Chocho, and the track-laying is progressing at the rate of 3 li per day. One of the constructing engineers states that the road will be open to this point in about two months' time.

With a view to economising expenditure the office of Governor of Kwangtung is to be abolished, the duties of that office being amalgamated with those of the Viceroy. The despatch announcing this decision was received at Canton on the 8th September and the change is to come into effect on the 15th. H.E. Hu Tan-wai, the Governor, has been ordered to Peking to await another appointment.

The demarcation of the Burmo-Chinese border during the ensuing cold weather may be regarded as certain, unless a rupture occurs between Great Britain and China. There is much work to be done, and as the Convention requires the demarcation to be completed within three years from the date on which it was begun, which was last December, there are now only two open seasons left.—*Rangoon Gazette*.

The story recently published in the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, that the French and Russian Ministers at Peking are doing their best to prevent the promised increase of pay being made to the Customs staff, is confirmed by the latest advices from Peking. This gross illiberality is supposed to be an answer to China's undertaking that the Inspector-General of Customs shall be a British subject.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Governor-General Otis has written to Consul General Wildman under date of August 31st, 1898, "that Chinese labourers (skilled or unskilled) formerly resident in Manila, and temporarily absent therefrom, will be allowed to return upon proper proof of such previous residence, which may be made by presentation of a Spanish cedula or certificate of the American Consul of the port from which the returning Chinese have sailed."

The 31st August was observed as a general holiday at Singapore in honour of the coming of age of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland. A reception was held by the Consul in the morning and in the evening the Dutch community gave a fancy dress ball.

We hear that M. Pavloff, who has been appointed Russian Minister to Korea, will pay a brief visit to Seoul before going home on leave. M. de Giers, the new Russian Minister to China, will arrive here in about a month's time.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Peking telegram of the 3rd September, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle* from a Japanese vernacular paper reads:—A Convention has been concluded between Germany and China relating to Kiaochau Bay. The gist of the arrangement is that Kiaochau Bay shall be opened to the trade of vessels of all nations and the export and import of goods; that China may establish a Customs-house at Kiaochau; and that the import of goods from other parts of China (the coasting trade) shall be free from duties.

In connection with the projected visit of the Emperor and Empress Dowager to Tientsin, for which great preparations are being made at that port, a truly characteristic Chinese incident is to be recorded. The two new Chinese cruisers, which have recently arrived off Taku from Stettin, have been dismantled of their electric light installations, which has been taken ashore to be fitted up for the illumination of the temporary palace of the Imperial visitors. It is truly Chinese economy, and the chances are 10 to 1 that some of the shore mandarins will find ways and means to annex both dynamos and installations.—*China Gazette*.

The Russians are very anxious not to spoil sport for the rest of us by offering exorbitant prices for anything, which is a very promising and satisfactory beginning. They are offering Tls. 10 per mow for land around Newchwang on which they propose to build storage godowns and buildings in connection with the railway. It is extremely inconsiderate under the circumstances that several British merchants who happen to hold some of the land required should be asking from Tls. 200 to Tls. 5,000 per mow. It is impossible for Russia to play the game properly if other nationals go getting in her way in that fashion!—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

Fighting between the Spaniards and the Philippine insurgents is still going on in the outlying districts of Luzon. Under the heading of "Echoes of the War" the *Independencia*, the new insurgent paper published at Manila, records "the capitulation of Laoag" and "the surrender of Aparri, the attacking force being in each case the insurgents and the defenders the Spaniards. At Laoag, in the province of North Ilocos, the garrison was composed almost entirely of European Spaniards and it surrendered only after a long siege. The number of prisoners taken was 250, not counting the civil element and the friars. At Aparri, in Cagayan, it is said "the Spanish soldiers acknowledged with tears of gratitude the generosity of our army, which divided with the sick and wounded their daily rations." The insurgent loss is given as seven killed and thirty-one wounded. The Spanish loss is not given. With the fall of Aparri the insurgent domination of the island is said to have been rendered complete.

**LI HUNG-CHANG'S DISMISSAL.**

(Daily Press, 10th September.)

The dismissal of LI HUNG-CHANG from his seat in the Tsungli Yamen is welcome news, for while he remained in power there was little hope of reform in the corrupt Government of China. He was the foremost representative and supporter of the great squeeze system, under which anything like an honest administration is impossible, and he was more than suspected of being in the pay of Russia. His downfall will therefore be a blow to Russian ascendancy at Peking and must be regarded as another victory for Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD, whom LI has of late attempted to thwart and insult in every way in his power. But a question that at once suggests itself is, what is the position of the Empress Dowager in the matter? It has been understood that Her Majesty and LI were working together for their common interest, and they had the young Emperor completely under their thumb. We can hardly suppose that LI's dismissal was in consequence of any breach between him and the Empress Dowager. The alternative is that some power has stepped between the latter and the Emperor, with the result that the young man has been induced to assert himself and that the Empress Dowager's hitherto unquestioned sway has come to an end. Will she yield it quietly, or is the world about to witness another series of palace intrigues? One thing is certain: with the Empress Dowager and LI HUNG-CHANG in retirement the hope of China's regeneration will be much brighter than it has been before.

**THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.**

(Daily Press, 10th September.)

The resolutions passed by the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce with reference to the Customs question will on the whole commend themselves to the more moderate section of the community. They seem, however, to rest to some extent on a false premise. The first resolution reads:—"That the Customs office be no longer permitted to collect duties in the colony or its waters." This would convey the impression to any one unacquainted with the circumstances that the Customs office had hitherto been allowed to collect duties, that is, to enforce their payment, within the colony and its waters. Such is not the case. The Government has never formally recognised the existence of the Customs office in Queen's Road and the officers of that service are endowed with no executive functions whatever within the colony or its waters. The admission made by the Chamber, going as it does beyond the facts, is to be regretted, because it may at some future period be used to the colony's detriment. But the system of voluntarily paying duties in the colony, so far as it exists, will go on after the office has been removed, as it went on before the office was established. Before the stations surrounding the colony passed under the control of the Foreign branch of the service duty paid certificates for various classes of goods were openly on sale in Queen's Road and used to be purchased by shippers, who deemed it more convenient to pay over the money here than to send it out to the stations with the attendant risk of loss or robbery during transit. In the same way, after the office is removed, we venture to think that any one who for his own convenience or to avoid risk of loss in transit wishes to pay money over to

the Customs in this colony will find quite easy means of doing so, for we presume the Committee of the Chamber would not carry their opposition to the Customs so far as to object to their keeping a banking account in the colony. For our own part we think it would have been better to have ignored the Customs office in Queen's Road altogether, seeing that it possesses no official status, can exercise no official functions, and if it does no good can at least do no harm. After the office is closed everything will go on as before, except that the business that cannot conveniently be taken out to the stations will be conducted through agents instead of by the Commissioner direct, and probably there is not a European firm in the colony, no matter how high its standing, that would refuse to accept the agency if the inducement offered were deemed sufficient. The net result will be that a house for the Commissioner will have to be built at some point on Chinese territory, with other houses for the staff, and that gradually a little settlement or town will spring up which may in time become to some extent a trading centre. We do not suppose that such a settlement would constitute any menace to Hongkong's prosperity, but on general grounds it is as well to keep all the business in the colony that we can instead of driving it away. Much of the opposition to the Customs having an office or agency in Queen's Road seems to have no more foundation in reason than the "no popery" cry in England or the Anglophobia of Parisian journalists. When pressed for their reasons those who most strongly condemn the office have none to give. It resolves itself into a mere matter of sentiment. We are told sometimes that trade is prejudiced, but how no one can explain. If Customs duties in China were done away with altogether there would no doubt be some development of trade, but the existence of the office in Queen's Road has no bearing on that question either one way or the other. The duties will be collected just the same if it is removed; if it remains they will not be enhanced. The Committee of the Chamber, however, deferring apparently to popular sentiment in the matter, recommend the removal of the office, and as sentiment counts for something with communities as well as with individuals we think Sir ROBERT HART might gracefully defer to Hongkong feeling in this matter and order the office to be closed, especially in view of the handsome character of the second and third of the Chamber's resolutions, which recommend that all opium arriving in the colony be accounted for, either through the agency of bonded warehouses or otherwise, and that the Government do all in their power to protect the Chinese revenue, more especially with regard to the opium farmer. The fourth resolution, namely, "that the revenue stations and revenue cruisers be removed beyond the limits of British territory and British waters" may be taken as a matter of course. The stations and cruisers must necessarily be removed if British jurisdiction in the colony is to remain unimpaired.

The Chamberlain Road at the Peak is now practically complete along its entire length from the Tramway Terminus at Victoria Gap to the junction with the roads to Aberdeen and Mount Kellett by "The Homestead." A brick shelter for the chair coolies on the vacant space opposite the Tram Station in place of the ragged matshed now doing duty is all that is required to perfect the arrangements made for the comfort of the numerous visitors who now make a trip to take the air round Mount Kellett.

**THE CHINESE CUSTOMS AND HONGKONG'S DISTRIBUTING TRADE.**

(Daily Press, 14th September.)

It would be of some service, both from a political and commercial point of view, if the Hongkong Government would appoint a competent officer, or a commission, to investigate the conditions attending the distributing trade in South China and the reasons for its slow development. By distributing trade we mean more particularly that carried on by junks from Hongkong, but sound conclusions can only be arrived at on that point by taking into account also the cases of Macao and Canton, which are also distributing centres and may owing to special causes attract the trade from Hongkong. It is desirable to know whether the trade has in fact been attracted from the colony, if so what the reason is, and whether the case is in any degree remediable. The Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, in their letter of the 19th July to the Marquis of SALISBURY, say that the junk trade "has been practically unprogressive" since the establishment of the Customs office in the city of Victoria some twelve years ago, and that there is, "in the Committee's opinion," a well founded impression that the natural growth of the native distributing trade of the colony is "restricted by the action of the Customs." The trade is admittedly restricted to the extent that the smuggling into China of goods shipped from Hongkong is prevented, but the point that it is of importance to ascertain is whether the legitimate, that is, the non-smuggling trade, is in any way restricted. If a commission such as we suggest were appointed the Customs would no doubt give it all the assistance in their power, and the Chinese traders would have the opportunity of formulating their grievances. The Opium Convention provides that "no dues whatsoever shall be demanded from junks coming to Hongkong from ports in China, or proceeding from Hongkong to ports in China, over and above the dues paid or payable at the ports of clearance or destination." It has been suggested, we believe, that in defiance of this provision junks that have paid duty at the Kowloon stations are again required to pay duty on arrival at their destination. A system of that kind would naturally restrict the trade and would afford the Hongkong Government good ground for taking strong measures in reference thereto. But has any such complaint ever been formulated by a junk owner or shipper of cargo, or is the suggestion merely made at random by parties carried away by the violence of their hostility to the Customs? How many complaints has the Hongkong Government received since the Kowloon Customs passed under the Foreign Inspectorate, what was the nature of such complaints, how many joint investigations have been held under article 6 of the convention, and what was the result in each case of such investigation? All parties are agreed that the Customs cannot be accorded any authority within the waters of the colony; an answer to the above questions would assist in determining the attitude that should be maintained towards the Customs situated beyond our jurisdiction but in our immediate neighbourhood.

Mr. HILLIER, the Commissioner of Customs for Kowloon, in his report for 1897, says that the falling off in the trade of that year was more than accounted for by the decrease in the importation of rice from abroad, owing mainly to the magnificent

autumn crops harvested in the Kowloon province, and that "the deficit is therefore an indication of local prosperity." Rice is always a disturbing factor in the trade returns if the totals only be looked at, for as in 1896-97 it may cause a variation between any two years of as much as one seventh, according to the character of the local crops. The opium trade, being a constantly declining one, is another item which tends to vitiate the accuracy of comparisons based on the totals of any two years. The imports of foreign goods into China through the Kowloon and Lappa stations and the port of Canton in 1888, the year after the Kowloon and Lappa stations passed under the control of the Foreign Inspectorate, amounted to Tls. 30,717,161, and in 1897 to Tls 30,312,142 only, the figures for each port or station being as follows:

	1888	1897
Kowloon...	Tls. 15,636,853	Tls. 13,027,228
Lappa.....	3,484,668	3,514,878
Canton ...	11,595,640	13,770,036

Tls. 30,717,161 Tls. 30,312,142  
Deducting opium and rice we arrive at the following figures as the values of the trade in foreign goods in general:—

	1888	1897
Kowloon ...	Tls. 7,361,207	Tls. 8,983,826
Lappa .....	2,873,788	2,284,532
Canton .....	5,591,198	10,974,150

Tls. 15,826,163 Tls. 22,242,508  
This shows an increase in ten years of 40 per cent. in currency, but as prices have in some cases risen in consequence of the fall in silver the increase in quantity would probably be found to be smaller. Putting the best face possible on it, the figures are miserably disproportionate to the population and wealth of the districts served. But the real cause of the non-expansion of the trade in foreign imports in China, and especially in the South, is the squeezes to which they have been subjected under the names of lekin, tso-li, etc. The transit pass system is now in operation in the South as well as in the North, and a considerable expansion may be looked for in the consumption of foreign goods in the future. No one has ever suggested that China was not entitled to raise a revenue by Customs duties, nor that goods passing through the free port of Hongkong were entitled to any exemption from payment of duty upon entering China; what has been objected to is the arbitrary and uncertain levy of irregular charges. The abolition of the Customs stations in the neighbourhood of this colony, if it could be effected, would therefore mean no relief to the legitimate trade in foreign goods, which would have to pay at their port of destination the same duties they now pay to the Kowloon Customs, or possibly higher duties. On the other hand, here and there cargoes might be "run" without paying any duty, which, put tersely, is what the more violent of the anti-Customs party want. They think that the smuggler ought to be allowed a fair start.

From the figures given above it will be seen that the trade in foreign goods passing through Canton has increased more rapidly than that passing the Kowloon stations. On this point Mr. HILLIER in his last report says:—"The opening of the West River to foreign trade and the strict enforcement of the transit pass system for both imports and exports have formed two potent forces in the current of the year's trade. While they have doubtless been of great value to merchants, and have extended the openings for commerce, they have tended to draw it into new channels,

"to the disadvantage of the junk trade, "with which alone this office has dealings, "and consequently to the detriment of the revenue collected for the provincial authorities, who have suffered no inconsiderable embarrassment from this curtailment of supplies. This has been notably the case in respect of the trade in kerosine oil and cotton yarn, both of which have been diverted to foreign bottoms, in spite of the endeavour, by readjustment of native taxation, to favour their shipment in native vessels. Kerosine oil is now mostly shipped by small sailing craft or lighters under foreign flag, which are towed to their destinations by steam tug." This tendency to carry the trade in foreign bottoms will become more and more marked as time goes on, and it is unlikely that we will again see any expansion of the junk trade; indeed, it will be rather surprising if it holds its own. But in speaking of the distributing trade of the colony we must not look only at the trade passing the Kowloon Customs stations. Goods imported into Hongkong are effectively distributed, so far as the importer is concerned, if shipped to Canton by steamer as they would be if sent by junk. What we have to look at is the total quantity of goods imported; the question of the particular channels through which the distribution takes place is of minor importance. If, however, there is anything in the operation of the Kowloon Customs that tends to restrict the gross volume of trade it is most desirable that it should be brought to light, which might be done by the appointment of a commission to enquire into the distribution of foreign goods in South China, the hindrances to the development of the trade, and the means by which a larger consumption might be promoted.

(*Daily Press*, 16th September).

An examination of the "summary" attached to table III. of the Kowloon Customs Returns for 1897 and a comparison with the same table in the 1888 Returns will demonstrate the importance of obtaining more detailed information as to the distributing trade of Hongkong. The table in question shows the value of foreign goods "imported from Hongkong into the following districts and places." The districts or places enumerated number 83, as against 41 in 1888, but the apparent increase is probably more a matter of account than of any actual increase in the number of places traded to, several groups of towns being now entered separately that were formerly included under the names of their respective districts. The total imports in 1897 amounted to Tls. 13,027,228, as against Tls. 15,636,853 in 1888, but, as explained by the tables showing the quantities and values of the articles imported, the difference is more than accounted for by the smaller importation of rice last year, when the bounteous character of the native crops rendered any large importation of foreign grain unnecessary. The table to which we refer shows extraordinary variations, some places showing a phenomenal increase, others a startling decrease, and a satisfactory explanation could only be arrived at by close examination of the Customs books, for the published returns do not furnish sufficient data to enable the enquirer to get at the root of the matter. In some cases towns seem to have been transferred from the heading for one district to that for another. For instance, in table No. 5 of the 1888 Returns, showing "the destinations of the principal articles of foreign and native produce imported," we find the entry "Sanon, chiefly to Autau," while in

the 1897 Returns we find "Kwaishin, chiefly to Autau and Namshan." Is the Autau referred to the same town in both cases, and if so how comes it that it has been transferred from one district to another? Also in the summary to table III. we find Autau mentioned separately and Kwaishin also mentioned separately, while, as mentioned above, in table V. Autan is included under the heading of Kwaishin.

Comparing the summary to table III. for the years 1888 and 1897, and taking only the towns and places specifically mentioned in each, we find that there have been increases in ten cases and decreases in twenty-one cases. The decreases are not only more numerous, but also much larger in their amounts than the increases. There are, however, only two places in which the values reach seven figures, namely Canton and Chantsun. Canton accounts for more than half the foreign imports by junk from Hongkong, namely, Tls. 9,299,365 out of a total of Tls. 15,636,853 in 1888 and Tls. 8,667,487 out of a total of Tls. 13,027,228 in 1897, while Chantsun accounted for Tls. 2,256,087 in 1888 and Tls. 1,001,486 in 1897. In the case of Canton the trade has gone to foreign built vessels, which do not come under the cognisance of the Kowloon Customs, and Chantsun, being near Canton, is now doubtless drawing some of its supplies from Canton under the transit pass system instead of obtaining the whole by junk from Hongkong. Autau shows an apparent decline from Tls. 674,336 to Tls. 64,098; owing to the confusion of districts it is impossible to say what the exact comparison is, but as both Sanou and Kwaishin also show decreases it would seem that there must have been an actual falling off of a very serious character.

Autau is a town near the northern shore of Mirs Bay and being so close to our new boundary possesses special interest for Hongkong. What, then, can be the cause of the decline? The place is too far away from any treaty port to draw its supplies elsewhere than from Hongkong. The tables do not enable us to trace in what particular articles the decline has taken place, and we are left therefore entirely in the dark. We cannot assume that the cause of the decline is to be found in any malpractice on the part of the Customs, because the Foreign Customs are an honest service, and also because if that were the explanation we should expect to find a decline all along the line, whereas in some cases there have been substantial increases, as for instance at Shuitung, where the foreign imports have increased from Tls. 40,000 to Tls. 100,000. We would venture to suggest to the Commissioner that in his next Returns he might recast the tables and make them a little more informing. Also in his Report accompanying the Returns it would be useful if he would devote a few lines to the trade conditions of the principal districts, instead of dealing only with the traffic as a whole without discriminating as to the origin or destination of the exports or imports.

The *China Gazette* of the 10th September says:—The C. P. R. steamer *Empress of Japan* coming up to Woosung to-day took the ground at the Kiutoan flat, but backed off with the rising tide shortly afterward, and floated without any trouble. The tender *Victoria* had in consequence a longer voyage than usual to fetch up the *Empress* passengers, having to go out as far as the Kiutoan lightship for the purpose. Amongst those who came up to Shanghai from the big mail steamer was H.E. Hsu, Chinese Minister to St. Petersburg, who is returning from his post.

**THE POLITICAL POSITION  
OF THIBET.**

(*Daily Press*, 12th September.)

When Dr. DUDGEON gets away from the opium question, on which he is more than slightly prejudiced, he becomes interesting, and though we can perhaps hardly agree with all his opinions, we are quite disposed to see with him in some matters. Thus, for instance, while we should hardly care to endorse his belief that in a few years Japan "will be the second naval Power in the world," we are inclined to think there is a *soupeon* of probability in his assertion that "it is the design of Russia to eventually occupy Thibet." Concerning this conclusion, Dr. DUDGEON is pleased to give reasons for the faith that is in him. He says:—"I doubt very much if the British Government is aware that the PREJVALSKI mission had for its chief object the establishment of Russian power in Thibet. I only heard of it through the Secretary of the Chinese Resident at Lhassa. It appears that two letters were despatched by the Russian Mission to the Dalai Lama, these communications being marked respectively '1' and '2'. It is necessary to point out that at this time the British were operating on the Thibet frontier in connection with the Sikkim troubles. No. 1 letter informed the Grand Lama that if the British attempted to occupy Thibet it was only necessary to immediately forward the letter to St. Petersburg, and if no response came, No. 2 letter should then be despatched and Russian troops would immediately be sent to their assistance. The letters were handed over by the Lama to the Chinese Resident, and are now preserved in his Yamen at Lhassa." Presumably this story is worthy of some credit, for it is in keeping with Muscovite methods, but we are not disposed as a rule to readily accept statements that rest on Chinese testimony only. Having regard to probabilities, however, it may be assumed that the statement is correct. Russia has long been silently working to bring about the annexation of Mongolia, and has made good progress in the direction by ingratiating herself with the Mongol population, among whom the Great White Czar is probably even now far more popular than the obscure myth termed the Son of Heaven. We know that the Russian Government made great efforts prior to the Treaty of 1881 to secure possession of Kashgaria, and clung to the Kuldja, of which they obtained possession in the time of YAKOOB BEG, with obstinate tenacity until the Peking Government, moved thereto by the stern denunciation of CHUNG HOW's Treaty by CHANG CHIH-TUNG, made it apparent that they would not let it go peacefully, when the necessary evacuation was made. And although little has been said, even unofficially, on the matter, there can be slender doubt that the mountainous region known as "The Roof of the World" has not escaped the eagle eye of the Chief of the Russian Foreign Office. The successive Russian Missions of exploration sent to Thibet were not despatched thither in the interests of science alone. That gallant explorer Colonel PREJVALSKI no doubt had his instructions, and though he achieved only a limited measure of success he paved the way for future operations. Unlike the Mongols, the Thibetans have no great love for the Russians. No doubt the Lamas are well aware of the proselytising zeal of the Greek Church, and have no mind to allow that aggressive and vigorous Church to invade the stronghold and headquarters of

Buddhism. Thibet is governed by the Buddhist hierarchy, and the Dalai Lama is at once their Pope and the sovereign ruler of the wide mountain ranges and wind-swept plateaux of this remarkable country, which from its physical features affords a tolerably secure fastness and retreat for this ancient but degenerate faith.

It would suit neither China nor India for the land of the Dalai Lama to fall into the clutches of the great Bear. Although the Chinese power is almost nominal—the Chinese Resident at Lhassa interfering little in the internal administration, but confining his attention to the external affairs of the country—nevertheless it would be a severe blow to Chinese prestige in Central Asia for Thibet, the home of the religion of probably half the Chinese race, to fall into the hands of Russia. Thibet is a poor country, though its undeveloped mineral resources are believed to be great, and the sum total of Chinese trade with this vast but thinly peopled dependency is comparatively insignificant. The tie is one more of sentiment than that of commercial or even political interest. Yet the Chinese Government would suffer a severe wound to its self-love and a blow to its prestige (if it have any prestige remaining) by the loss of Thibet. Nor could the Government of India regard with equanimity the extension of the Russian frontiers down to the borders of Sikkim. If Thibet is the "Roof of the world" it might perhaps be more particularly described as the "Roof of India," and it would be most undesirable that it should fall under the rule of Russia. India like China swarms with Buddhists who regard Lhassa as the very focus and headquarters of their religion, though the Grand Lama, it must be confessed, does little to uphold the sanctity and prestige of his capital beyond keeping the sacrilegious foot of the stranger from entering its precincts. The trade of India with Thibet is also a mere trifle, and though no doubt likely to develop considerably in course of time can hardly be expected, under existing conditions, to attain such magnitude as to render it a matter of much significance if imperilled. But it is the interest of the Indian Government to uphold Thibet in its present position as a dependency of the Celestial Empire, or, if China becomes unable to maintain its supremacy at Lhassa, then to extend a protectorate to the Dalai Lama, and appoint a Resident to reside in his capital. Mongolia may come within the sphere of Muscovite influence later on, but whatever aspirations Russia may have after Thibet they should certainly not be encouraged. A glance at the map will show that naturally and geographically Thibet should be a dependency of China, and that it forms the northern boundary of a great stretch of India. Suggestions have from time to time been made as to the practicability of establishing European colonies on the table lands of Thibet, where a population could grow up which might not only live and thrive all the year round, instead of withering under the heat of the plains of India, but might also furnish a source from whence to draw upon for the defence of that Empire. This is, however, all in the nature of speculation; it is by no means certain that Caucasians would thrive in the rarefied atmosphere of the Thibetan plateaux. In any case, that is a question of the comparatively distant future; but China, Great Britain, and India are all alike concerned to see that the southern trend of the Muscovite hosts does not take the direction of Thibet. That great lone and mysterious land, if not much longer preserved as a *terra incognita*, should at any rate be rendered practically neutral

territory and as soon as possible opened up to trade and regular communication through the passes *via* Sikkim with India.

**DR. MOMMSEN ON ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.**

(*Daily Press*, 13th September.)

It is curious to note how very far astray those persons who set themselves up as exponents of public opinion sometimes find themselves. Very recently Reuter telegraphed out a report, made on the authority of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of a coming alliance between Great Britain and Germany, which if not true was *ben trovato*. The action of the Emperor WILLIAM at Hanover immediately thereafter seemed to point very distinctly to some nearer *rapprochement* between the two countries than has of late existed. Such an alliance, between the two great branches of the Teutonic family, the two great Protestant states of Europe, the two peoples that have never exchanged blows, would, moreover, be most natural. English and German interests are almost indissolubly mixed up, their commercial relations are so intimate, and their social ties, through German immigration into British colonies, are so strong, that it would be both disastrous and unnatural for them to fall out. There is a strong commercial rivalry, but that exists among the best of friends all the world over, and should not prove a bar to the most complete political understanding. Competition is the life of trade, and it should serve to rouse the British manufacturer, who was at one time in danger of falling into the mistaken notion that he had undisputed control of the markets of the world and that purchasers must take what he chose to produce. His eyes have been opened to the fact that there are others ready to compete with him even on his own special reserves, and a stimulus has accordingly been given to him, which should prove very valuable. At one time it seemed as though a wave of opinion in Germany was carrying that country into the arms of Russia, and that she was even ready to embrace her hereditary foe and, possibly, give back the Rhine provinces to cement a new pact of friendship. This was when she, in an evil moment for her own interests, joined Russia and France in depriving Japan of the fruits of victory after the latter had laid the blubber whale China at her feet. That hallucination, however, never afflicted the commercial classes in Germany; it never blinded the eyes of those Teutons who had lived abroad.

But up to a very recent date the hallucination just mentioned would seem to have possessed the mind of one personage who claims to be *au courant* with national feeling and opinion. So recently as the commencement of last month the Berlin correspondent of the *Neue Freie Presse*, in the course of an interview with Dr. THEODOR MOMMSEN, put the following leading question—"Do you believe in the possibility of an alliance between England and Germany?" Dr. MOMMSEN, replied in the following terms:—"Among us, this swing on the part of the English is received with some scorn. I do not believe in the realisation of an alliance between the English and the Americans, and still less in a great Teutonic alliance, which would include the Anglo-Saxons and the Germans. The English, it is true, need allies, as they are threatened by the Russians and the French. But who will consent to do their business for them? On the contrary, I believe that one day France, Germany,

"and Russia might unite to divide the British Empire. France, perhaps, would seize Egypt, Germany the Cape, and Russia India." Even if this pretty little scheme were practicable it is still a question whether the gain of the British South African possessions would compensate Germany for the loss of trade she would suffer from the closing to her of other markets by France and Russia. Moreover, the action of the United States is left out of all calculation in the MOMMSEN prediction. Apart from the strong racial and daughterly feeling entertained by the Great Republic, which has lately found such lively expression, it is not to be supposed that our American kinsmen could regard with equanimity the destruction of their best markets. Dr. MOMMSEN was talking through his hat. Perhaps even he, had he been asked the same question three weeks later, after the Czar's recent declaration in favour of a general reduction of armaments, and the passionate outcry from France, which shows how closely she still clings to the determination to recover the lost provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, would have had a somewhat different reply to make. If Englishmen thought that Dr. MOMMSEN really represented German opinion they would a thousand times prefer to remain isolated, and rely in time of trouble on the good will of their nearer kindred to see fair play, just as the United States instinctively found it from the action of Great Britain, when the Mother Country refused to allow her daughter to be coerced by a European concert during her conflict with Spain. There was no Anglo-American alliance, it is true—there is no formal pact now—but it was well understood that had any attempt been made to assist Spain, then the British Navy would have given aid to the United States. Similarly, if Great Britain were to be hard pressed by any combination of European Powers, we are confident that American sympathy would speedily riven into active intervention. But we do not believe that Dr. MOMMSEN represents any large section of his countrymen, though it seems rather unfortunate that he should have made what even his friends will now probably characterise as an unfortunate delivery at such a juncture.

#### CREMATION FOR MAN AND BEAST.

(*Daily Press*, 15th September.)

During his approaching visit to Shanghai with the cricket team Dr. Lowson will no doubt find time to examine the crematorium at that port and ascertain how many times it has been made use of since its erection a year or two ago. At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board, it will be remembered, the doctor said "a large number of Europeans here, he was convinced, would like to be cremated, but they could not do it, as they had not the accommodation." It was supposed that the same desire existed at Shanghai, and the Municipality was induced to erect a crematorium, but as yet it has been very sparingly used. A great many persons, probably a majority of educated men, now approve in the abstract of cremation, but comparatively few feel so strongly on the subject as to leave written instructions that their own remains shall be disposed of by that means, and in a matter in which sentiment plays so large a part relations are naturally reluctant to break with the ancient ways unless in compliance with a special request on the part of the deceased. The result is that even where facilities for cremation exist they are seldom availed of.

This is proved by the experience of London, and, coming nearer home, Shanghai. One of the best means of bringing the system into more general use, however, will be to place the means of cremation within easy reach of those who desire to avail of them. It is a case in which the supply should precede the demand. But the Hongkong Government will presumably have to be convinced that cremation is desirable, and that the demand should be encouraged, before it will be found ready to proceed with the construction of a crematorium; and in that matter it would probably prefer to follow the example of the home Government, which, though it permits cremation, takes no active steps to encourage it. In Hongkong if any one desires to be cremated there would be little difficulty in arranging for it according to the system followed by the Hindus, which is effective and quite unobjectionable, except that it takes some time and is conducted in the open air, whereas Europeans would probably desire that the operation should take place speedily and in a building of an ecclesiastical style of architecture for even cremationists may probably lay claim to some little amount of sentiment.

The discussion at the Sanitary Board arose, however, out of a suggestion that cremation should be used as a means of disposing of the carcasses of diseased cattle, and the Hon. F. H. MAY pointed out in the course of the discussion that they could not decently use the same crematorium for human beings that they used for cattle. It would certainly be a shock to one's feelings to see a sign hung out reading "Cremation for man and beast." The Board therefore decided to recommend the Government to erect a small crematorium for the purpose of burning the bodies of cattle dead of infectious disease and also on a separate site a small public crematorium for the use of such sections of the public as may desire to avail themselves of it. With reference to cattle we should be inclined to think the Board have made a mistake and that what is required is not a crematorium in a permanent building, but a moveable arrangement that could be carried to the place where the carcase lay instead of the carcase having to be carried to the crematorium. A crematorium at Kennedytown would be very inconveniently situated for the disposal of carcasses of cattle dying at Wongneichong, and should Wongneichong be selected as the site it would be found equally inconvenient in the case of cattle dying at Pokfulam. The carcase of a cow is not an easy object to remove and when it is diseased it is objectionable to have to carry it through the streets. It is therefore desirable that the cremation should take place if possible at or near the same place as the death. The Board tried to burn the carcase of a cow once, but it cost them no less than \$153, and so they sent it to Japan for particulars of the crematoriums there. From the particulars supplied it appears that cremations in a properly constructed crematorium in constant use can be conducted very cheaply, but the cost would naturally be higher if the crematorium were only used occasionally and at long intervals. If the Government offered a small prize for the best design for a moveable apparatus for the cremation of the carcasses of cattle it is not unlikely that it would obtain one by which the operation could be carried out as cheaply and effectively as in a fixed crematorium. Liquid fuel is now used on board ships, and a simple mechanical arrangement could no doubt be devised by which similar fuel could be fed to an open

air furnace for the cremation of cattle as easily as it is fed to the furnaces of a ship's boilers. We make the Sanitary Board a present of the idea.

#### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 12th September a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the ACTING GOVERNOR (Major-General BLACK, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL IRVING.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

#### PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Director of Public Works for the half-year ended June 30th, 1898, and financial minutes Nos. 14 and 15, and moved that the latter be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

#### FINANCE REPORT.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table finance report No. 5 and proposed its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

#### BYE-LAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF LAUNDRIES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said—I have the honour to move the following resolution which stands in my name:—"That this Council approves of the repeal by the Sanitary Board of the present bye-laws as to laundries approved by this Council on the 16th day of August, 1895, and the substitution therefor of the bye-laws made by the Sanitary Board on the 25th day of August, 1898." Honourable members who have looked at these bye-laws will find that there were six old bye-laws which have been reduced to five. The new bye-law No. 4 takes the place of bye-laws 4 and 5 in the old ones.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded and the motion was carried.

#### REGULATING THE SALE OF POISONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move that the Council approve of the bye-laws made by the Sanitary Board for regulating the sale of poisons in the colony of Hongkong. The sale of poisons in England has for a long time been so regulated. A considerable amount of time and attention have been bestowed upon these bye-laws. They have been very carefully considered by the Sanitary Board before being brought before the Council. I have the honour to propose that the Council approve of these bye-laws under Section 15 of The Public Health Ordinance, 1887, whereupon they have to be published in the *Government Gazette* in English and Chinese in order to become the law of the colony.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### AMENDING THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I have the honour to propose the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance, 1896. Section 10 of Ordinance No. 16 of 1896 deals with the subject of cases where a child having been registered it is desired to alter the name and also

with cases where the registration has taken place shortly after birth and the name has not been fixed upon at the time. A name has been given to the child after registration, and it has always been competent for the parent or person giving the name to make a declaration in writing before the Registrar-General; but in a recent case a lady had left Hongkong and she cannot make that declaration. She could make a declaration before a notary in Germany, and the Secretary of State has suggested that the section should be amended. It is therefore proposed to amend the section by adding at the end the following words:—"Provided that whenever it is shown to the satisfaction of the Registrar-General that, owing to absence from the colony or other reasonable cause, the parent, guardian, or other person procuring such name to be altered or given, is unable to attend personally before the Registrar-General to make a declaration in writing in accordance with this section, the Registrar-General may, in his discretion, accept in lieu thereof a declaration in writing made before any person competent to take statutory declarations or may accept such other evidence as he may in the circumstances deem sufficient, and may, thereupon, act in all respects as if a declaration in writing had been made before him personally." The proviso added by this Ordinance is intended to meet cases where the applicant is unable to appear personally before the Registrar-General to make the application.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The standing orders were suspended and the Bill having been read a second time it was considered in committee, after which it was read a third time and passed.

#### FEES FOR NATURALISATION.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I have the honour to propose the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance authorizing the imposition of fees for the Naturalization of aliens naturalized as British Subjects within the limits of Hongkong. It will be within the recollection of this Council that ever since I think 1890, in accordance with the decision of the Governor in Council, it has been the practice to charge a fee of \$250 for each Ordinance of Naturalization passed at the request of an alien desiring naturalization. Doubts having arisen as to the propriety of making such a charge without direct legislative sanction, this Ordinance is designed to confer the necessary legal power upon the Governor in Council to fix and declare the fees to be paid for naturalization and also to remove any doubts as to the legality of the fees already received.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Bill having been considered in committee, it was read a third time and passed.

#### AMENDING THE MAGISTRATES' ORDINANCE, 1890.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I have the honour to propose the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Magistrates' Ordinance, 1890. The Magistrates' Ordinance, 1890, required that there should be two magistrates, "as heretofore." For some time past only one magistrate has been appointed. Of course it is a question whether it is a wise thing that there should be only one. As far as my personal opinion goes, I think there should be two, and I believe that that is the opinion of the Chief Justice. The object of this Ordinance is to enable the Governor to allow the work of the Magistracy to be done either by one or by more magistrates, as experience may prove to be most expedient. I read in the paper the other day that 90 cases were disposed of in one day, and it is difficult to know how one man can be expected to try 90 cases properly in one day, although we have a very hard working acting magistrate at the present time.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Bill having been considered in committee it was read a third time and passed.

#### NEW BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Bills for the naturalisation of Lo Chung Pak, alias Lo Yuen Peon, alias Lo Shan U; Leung Luk, alias Leung Cheung So; Li Chung, alias Li Chan Shing, were read a third time and passed.

#### INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—I have the honour to propose the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to Intoxicating Liquor Licenses. The old law was passed in 1886. In many respects that Ordinance, although not very artistically drawn, has in practice worked well. Of course after 12 years' experience of a liquor law certain defects are sure to be discovered and certain improvements suggested from time to time. Various difficulties which have arisen during the last two or three years have been brought before me, and I have taken these up with the object of amending the law. I thought it would be more convenient, instead of making several small amendments, to re-draft the Ordinance and consolidate the law. This Ordinance is practically the old one with certain improvements in it. In the first place there are several trifling verbal amendments which I need not take up your time in discussing. In many cases suitable headings have been inserted to facilitate reference. There is a fee of \$10 charged for a transfer, which is quite right seeing that it involves some trouble and expense. Then three persons were required to certify that the applicant was of good fame and reputation, but I am rather inclined to think that on some occasions the gentlemen coming forward to vouch as to the good character of the applicant have been persons interested in the sale of liquor to him. I think it would be well to remove this temptation. I may mention the case of Hok Geon. Three gentlemen were found to vouch as to his suitability for a license, &c., and I should think they now regretted having done so. The new Ordinance says that the three persons called by the applicant must be persons in no way directly or indirectly connected with the sale of liquor to the applicant. There is also an amendment suggested by the police as regards illicit distilleries. Under the old law when the police discovered an illicit distillery they could only seize the pans. They might find a lot of vats of liquor but they could not touch the liquor. This has been amended, and the police will be able to seize the whole paraphernalia. Then the wording of the interpretation of terms at the beginning is altered. It is made more logical. It begins by saying what intoxicating liquor means before dealing with licenses for the sale of that liquor, and this portion of the Bill has also been enlarged, several fresh definitions having been given to various licenses, which definitions will, I think, be useful. In paragraphs three and four the order has been reversed. In section seven it is provided that the holder of a Chinese wine and spirit shop license may sell by wholesale as well as by retail. Then in section eight an amendment has been made. Temporary licenses are only to be granted to persons who hold licenses already. That is the same as in England. It has been thought advisable that a publican should not be allowed to sell Chinese wines and spirits, because he keeps a public bar, but that restriction has not been placed on an adjunct license or the keeper of a restaurant, because he does not keep a public bar, it being thought that if a Chinese mandarin were at an hotel and wanted some Chinese sampan or something of that sort there was no reason why he should not be supplied. Then there is a new form of license dealt with in section 31—Chinese restaurant license. I think they will prove—and I believe the Captain Superintendent of Police will bear me out—a very useful form of license. There is a large class of houses among the Chinese restaurants where they want to sell liquor to their customers while they are having their meals, but they do not want to keep a public bar. Section 32 provides that no person shall keep an eating house without a license from the Colonial Secretary. The reason is that you want to regulate these places. People go there, and you want to ensure good order and propriety of conduct. If they take out an intoxicating liquor license they are under the intoxicating liquor law, and their houses are properly regulated. I do not know why, but shortly after the passing of the Ordinance of 1886 the Governor in Council decided that in the case of Chinese eating houses there should be no fee charged for the license. It seemed extremely unfair that whilst a European coffee-shop like the "Star" coffee-shop, which was established for the good of the

sailors, should pay \$10 a Chinese eating house should have nothing to pay. Now it is proposed to bring them all under one rule and to lower the license from \$10 to \$5. The only other matter I must trouble you about is dealt with in section 40. There has been some trouble about this question of sale by licensed auctioneers, and the latter ought to know what they can do and what they cannot do. I think this section meets all requirements. An auctioneer is not a person who sells his own goods, and therefore an auctioneer should not in ordinary course be able to sell intoxicating liquors for a man who has not a license. The section as it is worded now is as follows:—"Nothing in this Ordinance shall render it illegal for an auctioneer, holding an auctioneer's license, to sell intoxicating liquor by auction, without any license under this Ordinance, upon his own premises for a principal holding an appropriate liquor license, or upon premises in respect of which the auctioneer's principal holds an appropriate license, authorising such principal to sell such intoxicating liquor, or in cases where such liquor is the property of the Imperial or Local Government, or forms part of the estate of a bankrupt or a deceased person, or is sold by order of court, or where, in any particular case, upon application made, the Colonial Secretary shall grant permission for such sale by auction, whether upon licensed premises or elsewhere." One gentleman who drew my attention to this section said he did not like the power being given to the Colonial Secretary. I do not think that gentleman has fully studied the question. It is done for this purpose. If a gentleman is leaving the colony and has some wine in his cellar he can go to an auctioneer, who can drop a line to the Colonial Secretary and get permission to sell it. If they did not have to refer to the Colonial Secretary, persons could send all kinds of stuff to the colony and get it sold by auctioneers, and it would never have passed through the hands of a licensed person at all. When the section comes to be worked I think it will be all right. Indeed it is more liberal to the auctioneer than the law of England at the present time.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Bill having been considered in committee, it was read a third time and passed.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee were read and adopted as a correct record.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,500, in aid of the vote "Expenses of the Volunteers."

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked for information with regard to this vote.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY replied.—The Commandant of the Hongkong Volunteers has applied, as in past years, for a sum in excess of the \$12,000 voted, as, owing to the rate of exchange, he has to pay more in dollars for material supplied from home; money is also required for the camp of instruction, which is not contemplated as being covered by the estimate of \$12,000.

The vote was agreed to.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$23,805.44, in aid of the vote for "Store account" in the Public Works Department.

The ACTING-COLONIAL SECRETARY said.—With regard to this vote I may explain to honourable members that up to 31st December, 1897, a store suspense account was kept in the books of the Treasury. Under orders from the Secretary of State that store suspense account has been done away with, and in the Estimates for 1898 a store account was opened, a nominal sum of \$100 being voted for that purpose. Now the store suspense account requires closing and the balance at debit on 31st December was this sum of \$23,805.44. In order to work off this balance the present vote is required. It is simply a book transaction. The store account now opened will be debited in this sum and the old store suspense account will be credited and closed.

The vote was agreed to.

## SUPREME COURT.

September 12th.

## IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

## BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

## THE DEMURRAGE CASE.—JUDGMENT.

In this case M. A. A. de Souza and Co., of Stanley Street, sought to recover from Bradley and Co., of Queen's Road, the sum of £300 for demurrage of the steamer *Astrid*. Plaintiffs claimed that defendants did not give the steamer quick despatch, the discharge not being completed until the 23rd May whilst it ought to have been completed at noon on the 21st May.

His Lordship, in giving judgment for defendants with costs, said in his opinion plaintiffs put themselves out of court by the two letters they wrote on May 21st.

Mr. H. L. Dennys was solicitor for plaintiffs and Mr. Master for defendants.

## THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

## LETTER TO THE LONDON CHAMBER.

The following letter has been addressed by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce to the President of the London General Chamber of Commerce:

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.  
Hongkong, 5th September, 1898.

Sir,—The Committee of this Chamber take this opportunity to ask your assistance and co-operation in securing the best interests of this colony, which are in danger of suffering injury from certain stipulations in a Convention recently negotiated for its intended special benefit. I refer to the Convention signed at Peking on the 9th June by Her Britannic Majesty's Minister with the Chinese Government to secure an extension of the boundaries of Hongkong, and the text of which agreement has been published in *The Times*.

One clause of that Agreement provides that within the city of Kowloon the Chinese officials now stationed there shall continue to exercise jurisdiction, and that the existing landing place near Kowloon city shall be reserved for the convenience of Chinese men-of-war, merchant and passenger vessels, which may come and go and lie there at their pleasure, &c. This clause can only be considered as detracting most seriously from the value of the concession, inasmuch as it leaves in the centre of a British possession a jurisdiction and authority which are alike foreign and antagonistic to all our ideas of jurisprudence and government, and for that reason alone is to be earnestly deprecated. Apart from this, however, is the absolute certainty that such deference to the supposed susceptibilities of the Chinese Government must act prejudicially upon the minds of all the natives, who under these circumstances will assuredly regard the Chinese rather than the British Government as the predominant Power, a result so patent that it seems incredible an arrangement of this nature could ever have been considered. The city of Kowloon itself is an insignificant place, but it has always been a thorn in the side of Hongkong since the latter became a British colony, lying as it does on the other side of the centre of the harbour, while its gambling dens have repeatedly caused serious trouble to the Colonial Government. The insanitary condition of the place also renders it a source of danger to the health of the colony. The reservation of the only landing place and the waters of the bay for the use of Chinese war vessels and revenue cruisers—for no merchant steamers frequent the place—is tantamount to the establishment of a Chinese port for the use of Chinese Customs cruisers, &c., within a British harbour, a position without a parallel in any other part of the world.

Although no mention of such specific proposals is contained in the Convention, this Committee have reason to know that the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs have put forward certain claims, in connection with the protection of their revenue, which include the retention of all their existing stations in the new British territory, and to have further facilities granted

for collecting duties in the waters of the harbour itself. To such proposals, it is needless to say, there is universal objection in this colony, where the opinion naturally obtains that the Chinese Government should collect its own revenue in its own territory, as is done by every other Government. To allow the new territory to be throttled by a network of Chinese Customs stations and cruisers hemming it round, with a central establishment in the colony, would be to effectually hamper the development of its trade and industries which might otherwise be confidently looked for.

Under the provisions of the Agreement known as the Opium Convention, 1885, negotiated to give effect to the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention, the Hongkong Government undertakes to see that all opium arriving has to be reported to the Harbour Master, and no opium can be exported without notice to that official. By this means smuggling has been greatly reduced, but if it be desired to narrow this down to vanishing point no doubt further steps, either by the establishment of bonded warehouses for opium and limiting the preparation of the drug to local consumption and the supply of the American and Australian markets could be taken by the Hongkong Government. This Chamber has no desire to see one cent of revenue collected at the expense of the Chinese Treasury, but it is profoundly convinced that the freedom of the port can only be properly safeguarded by the withdrawal of the Chinese Customs Stations to Chinese territory and the refusal of permission to the Chinese Customs officials to collect duties in the colony or its waters.

It has been urged that the facilities asked for by the Chinese Customs are regarded in some way as a *quid pro quo* for the extension of territory. With regard to this contention, this Committee would point out that British trade has for the past thirty years been suffering serious loss consequent on the failure of the Chinese Government to carry out the conditions of the Treaties, which loss if placed in the scale would still leave a large balance at the debit of China.

This extension of territory, though of great strategic and military value, would certainly never prove of equal commercial importance unless it were free from the restrictions with which the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs seek to fetter not only it but also the parent colony. Taking this into consideration, this Chamber is of opinion that the colony had better remain in the position antecedent to the convention of June last rather than accept the new territory with the conditions now sought to be attached thereto.

The Committee have addressed the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonial Government at length on this important question, and now beg that your Chamber will not only give its most earnest attention thereto but will throw the whole weight of its great influence in favour of this colony.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. M. GRAY,  
Chairman.

The President, London General Chamber of Commerce.

## DISMISSAL OF LI HUNG-CHANG.

## SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD SCORES.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."  
Shanghai, 9th September.

An Imperial Edict issued on the 7th instant relieves Li Hung-chang and Chin Hsin, the Manchu President of the Board of Revenue, from their duties in connection with the Tsungli Yamen.

Yu Lu is appointed Minister of the Yamen and President of the Board of Rites.

Sir Claude MacDonald scores.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—Re the Newchwang Line, one of the Jardine boats went out of Taku last week with 1,500 coolies for this work; this is by far the greatest number which has ever left our port at once. The ship presented a curious sight as she had the barrows and other tools slung outside the taffrail, from want of room.

## THE SITUATION IN MANILA.

## AGUINALDO'S MOVEMENTS.

## SHIPPING REGULATIONS.

## TRAMWAY STRIKE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 5th September.

Aguinaldo has at last decided to change his headquarters. He has been reported as doing so many times, but each time he remained at Bakor. It can now be said with authority that he will move therefrom. While he does not state positively the location of his capital it will probably be Mololla, which is to the north on the line of the railway leading to Dagupan. There are several good reasons for the change which his officers advance, although Aguinaldo himself says little about plans that involve his personal movements. At the present time he is between two divisions of the American army: one at Manila and one at Cavite, practically within their lines—of easy observation if not operations—and within near shelling distance of the American fleet. If there is to be any trouble with the Americans, which for the good of the Philippines as much as Americans is to be deplored, it is good strategy for him to change his present position. Then, again, he intends to combine and unite his forces by going to the north and place himself where he can be in close touch with the more powerful leaders of that section. Still another reason is that he will be on the line of the railway, where if necessary he can either escape to a point further north and get away into the mountains, or cut the line to prevent the American transport of troops or connection with supply points in the rich provinces between Manila and the Gulf of Singayen, where the railway now ends.

There are still other reasons for this change of base. Undoubtedly Aguinaldo is frightened as to the future. He could not be called a great, brave man himself and hence he cannot individually inspire his men and followers so that they will always stand by him. Unless he goes to the north he fears that he will lose his hold on his chiefs in that section or that they will separate themselves from him and proclaim another as President. As each day passes Aguinaldo sees the weakness of his cause and the frailty of his claims developing into absolute failure unless the Philippines shall be returned to the Spaniards, when he would indeed have a just cause of fighting. He knows secretly that he has committed a great crime in proclaiming independence; he is well aware that, but for American assistance, he would never have been where he is to-day; he is conscious that he owes almost everything to American assistance and co-operation, and is likewise mindful of the fact that he is almost guilty of the gravest treachery towards the United States in assuming the attitude which he has in his relations with the United States officials in his proclamations, and in the instructions and orders which he has issued, realizing at the same time that the great Powers of Europe will never recognize his claim to independence.

In view of all these conditions Aguinaldo intends to be ready to run if compelled. If his magnificent bluff fails he must get out of the way, and he knows of it. If this running shall be from the Americans I pity him, because there are 15,000 men here that will never stop till they find him if they are ordered to bring him into Manila. At the same time if he will pursue the honourable course and not take advantage of the nation to which he owes everything, and gracefully accept its chief control, if the Paris tribunal so decides, he will find these Americans equally ready to protect the rights of Philippines and do their best to promote the prosperity and welfare of the natives as well as Americans and foreigners.

The great error of Aguinaldo and his followers is that they do not realize that Americans are almost as different from Spaniards as white from black and that the former's ideas of government, freedom, and justice, are entirely unlike those of the latter. Just because the American authorities cannot and do not in a few days completely change the administration of affairs in Manila, and even allow a few Spanish officials to remain temporarily in their places, the insurgent leaders blindly argue that there

is no difference between Americans and Spaniards, in order to influence the common people. They will not for a moment look forward to the future and they will not recognize the local difficulties of the situation.

It is interesting news that the insurgents have started a daily newspaper called the "*Independencia*." It is published at Malabon and its purpose is evidently to hold the faithful to the flock and inspire others to join the cause. Its tone reminds one much of the amateur and school-boy papers at times printed in England and America. In some respects it is bright, but its attitude is so "blood and thunder," "independence or death," without giving any good reason for its position as far as Americans are concerned, that I doubt if it will be very influential. Several prominent natives have told me that its only purpose was to agitate and keep alive the sentiment for independence.

Two conditions of the insurgents are now quite noticeable, especially as they are in direct contrast; the first is that many of the best men in the insurgent camp and some of Aguinaldo's particular advisers are deserting him and coming to live peacefully in Manila with the hope that America will retain possession. I have met four or five such men who, I had supposed, would always remain faithful to Aguinaldo, and I have heard of a dozen more who have undoubtedly given up supporting Aguinaldo's untenable attitude towards America. The second is that the rank and file of the insurgents are what might be termed very "cocky" and at times insolent without cause. They seem to prefer and seek a manner which may lead to trouble and quarrels. Whether this spirit is fostered by the officers I do not know, but it exists and should be curbed. In this connection it can be added that at the slightest provocation the insurgent garrisons which are located in the city limits spring to arms. If a child blows off a pop gun or a soda water bottle bursts in the vicinity, these apparently lazy soldiers jump to their arms like a cat upon its prey. All this is very well if the Spaniards are to hold the Philippines, which is extremely improbable, but very, very unfortunate if the Americans are to remain in possession, as we all hope and pray.

As several insurgent steamers are still cruising in Philippine waters, all vessels flying formerly the Spanish flag are making a rush to secure American register and so have the right to fly the American colours and obtain the protection they mean—now even as they never did before. This work makes Consul Williams very busy. At one time it looked as if he might be without a billet under the present regime, but not so now. He has his hands full looking after shipping and kindred matters.

By an order issued a few days ago Consul Williams was duly appointed by Major-General Otis to perform Consular duties in this locality under the United States Military Government here established, in certain particulars, as follows: To attest under the U. S. Consular Regulations all bills of sale of vessels; to certify to all invoices of exports, and to administer and make attestations to all required oaths necessary in the preparation and compilation of shipping articles.

It will concern the business interests of Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai that, notwithstanding the first orders to the contrary issued before the armistice commenced, vessels can now sail from Manila to any and all ports of the Philippines carrying cargo, so that the feared lock up of goods in Manila godowns will be obviated. Conditions of business are improving every day, the Custom House is working with excellent precision and rapidity, and withal the American officials seem to be handling the situation most successfully.

A strike is now on among the tramway drivers and conductors and among the launch crews. They have made a demand for ridiculously high wages—three times what they were getting, because they think the Americans have plenty of money and can afford to pay what they demand. Indications are that they will fail, beyond possibly obtaining a slight increase, deserved on account of rush of work. This incident proves that even in distant tropical climes strikes can be carried on with the same system as in the United States and Europe. No tram ran yesterday or to-day and none but navy launches were seen at work on the river. The Americans spoiled the natives when they

first entered the city by spending money too freely and paying any price asked.

Colonels Orenshime, Whittier, and Hale have been promoted to Brigadier-Generals of Volunteers; and Brigadier-Generals Anderson, Greene, and McArthur to Major-Generals of Volunteers. There are some regrets that others did not secure the coveted honours, but nobody will begrudge these able officers their step up the ladder of military glory.

The *Rio Janeiro* leaves in a few days for San Francisco with the convalescent wounded of the American army. They will be given a royal reception when they arrive.

We are daily expecting to see the *Powerful* in port to relieve the *Immortalite* but we shall greatly miss Captain Sir Ed. Chichester, than whom a better skipper never lived.

#### A WONDERFUL CHANGE.

Hongkong, 10th September.

Almost every despatch which arrives from Manila refers to the wonderful change which has come over the city. Previous to the thirteenth of August there was noticed on every body's face a careworn and haggard look as of men battling against heavy odds and without chance of success. But now that has all changed. The cloud of depression has been lifted off them, and although they have lost the day their enemy is a humane one, enabling them to sleep peacefully at night without worry or anxiety, knowing that they are well protected all round the city from the rebels—their most dreaded foe. Business is in full swing. For the past few weeks the banks have been crowded with American soldiers wanting to change gold dollars into silver. The river is full of the Compania Maritima Steamers, who are now compelled to fly a neutral flag, while all is alive in the Bay. Up to the present the Americans have not moved their out-posts beyond Pakko and the districts within two or three miles of Manila, the result being that the rebel troops commence where the others leave off. A correspondent who lives within the rebel lines writes:

"What a contrast between the two!—between discipline and a rabble. The place is full of natives hurrying about with the air of conquerors—some with rifles, others with bayonets, and others with nothing but bolas. The noise of badly-tuned and badly-played bugles is incessant and consequently rather trying to the ears. The cries of the drill sergeant trying to instil a little order and discipline into his squad of natives rather reminds one of one's childhood, when one used to march round the garden with tin sword and trumpet, playing at soldiers."

"Unfortunately for them the rebels are now beginning to find it is not all beer and skittles—that their present style of living is very far from that blissful life they all expected and meant to live. They anticipated being in Manila, occupying the houses of the rich Spaniards and revelling in the spoils of war. But this has all been knocked on the head.

"The insurgent leaders find it difficult to get money with which to pay their followers. In order to raise funds the rebel chiefs collect a tax on every native cart entering their lines and passing through to Manila, and have also instituted a poll tax far heavier than that issued by the Spaniards and which was the primary cause of the rebellion.

"The Spanish and American soldiers appear very friendly with each other, the Americans saying they wish they had been fighting the rebels instead of the poor young Spaniards torn away from the fields against their will, but I expect the Yankees will have their wish gratified before long."

The steamer *Pekin*, while on the passage from Shanghai to Ningpo on the 5th September, when off the Little Beacon heard cries in the water. The steamer was stopped and a boat lowered, five men being discovered clinging to the wreckage of a junk, which they reported had been run down half-an-hour previously by an outward-bound steamer, which had not stopped to see what damage she had done, or try to rescue those on board the junk. All their clothing and effects had been lost in the wreck, so they were supplied with food and clothing, and a subscription raised for them among the *Pekin*'s officers and passengers. The men were taken on and landed at Ningpo.

#### CONGESTED CONDITION OF THE YARN MARKET.

##### SHORT TIME IN BOMBAY MILLS RECOMMENDED.

The following telegrams have been interchanged by the Chinese merchants dealing in Indian yarn and the Bombay Millowners' Association, through the medium of Mr. H. M. Mehta. The reasons assigned by the Chinese merchants for making the request conveyed in their telegram of working the mills in Bombay short time has been principally the heavy accumulation of Indian threads in this market and in Shanghai without having sufficient outlets open for their immediate consumption owing to the rebellion in Kwangsi and Kwangtung. They emphasize the urgency of the measure and advocate against the present almost unprecedentedly congested position by the computation of stocks as under:

Unsold stock in Hongkong	55,000 bales
Sold stock in Hongkong	42,000 "
Unsold stock in Shanghai	32,000 "
Sold stock in Shanghai	18,000 "

These figures speak for themselves, and as the uncertainty of the duration and course of the rebellion in the two Kwangs increases, the demoralization in the principal markets is *pari passu* on the increase, and unless the curtailment of arrivals transpires the likelihood is that the markets will further get into demoralization to the serious detriment of the yarn trade in India, China, and Japan.

##### TELEGRAMS.

To Bombay Millowners' Association, Bombay—Chinese merchants unitedly urge necessity mills working short time—Rebellion Kwangsi Kwangtung seriously interfering—closing outlets. Stocks sold unsold one lac Hongkong—half Shanghai—Urgency regarding shipments extreme.

H. M. MEHTA.

8th September, 1898.

To H. M. Mehta, Hongkong.

Committee will consider question of short time provided China and Japan mills co-operate.

MILLOWNERS.

9th September.

#### THE WATER SUPPLY.

On 1st September, 1898, the water in Tytam reservoir was 2 feet 5 inches below the overflow, representing a storage of 364,550,000 gallons, while Pokfulum reservoir was full to the overflow level, representing a storage of 66,000,000 gallons. The total storage was thus 430,550,000 gallons.

The following are the figures on the corresponding dates last year.

Level.	Storage.
Tytam... full ...	384,800,000
Pokfulum full ...	66,000,000
	Total 450,800,000

The total consumption for all purposes during August was 107,485,000 gallons, giving with an estimated population of 196,500 an average daily consumption of 17.6 gallons per head.

For the corresponding period last year the total consumption was 91,629,000 gallons, or an average daily consumption of 15.5 gallons per head for the population of 190,500.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality and that the supply from Pokfulam is not inferior to that from Tytam.

#### HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

##### THE PROPOSED BONUS TO THE DIRECTORS.

On the 15th Sept. an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held at the hotel, for the purpose of considering the following resolution, of which due notice had been given, by Mr. Ho Tung:—"That a bonus of two thousand dollars be hereby voted to each of the three existing directors, or the sum of six thousand dollars in all, out of the profits of the Company during the past half year, as some recognition by the shareholders of the successful exertions of the Directors in placing the concern once more on a dividend-paying basis." Mr. E. Osborne (Chairman) presided,

and there were also present: Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, W. Parfitt (Directors), E. Georg, J. H. Cox, T. Rowin, D. McDonald, G. C. Cox, J. Y. V. Vernon, J. C. Peter, T. Brown, A. A. Gutierrez, J. McKie, S. H. Michael, W. H. Potts, R. S. Philpott, Ho Tung, Ho Fook, Lo Cheung Shin, Ho U Shang, Tai Tak, Chan Chan Nam, Ip Chee Fong, Leung Lit Shan, Sang Kee, Leong Kong Shang, Ho Yam Nam, Ho Chok Tean, Wong Kam Fuk, and G. Mooney (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders Mr. Ho Tung was kind enough to suggest that a bonus should be given to the three existing directors as some recognition of what they have done for the past five years in connection with this hotel. That recognition has been drafted into a resolution which has been advertised for the past three weeks in accordance with the Articles of Association. I have now to ask Mr. Ho Tung to place the matter before the meeting.

Mr. HO TUNG said—I have much pleasure in rising to move the following special resolution for the purpose of giving merited recognition to the past services of our directors:—"That a bonus of two thousand dollars be hereby voted to each of the three existing directors, or the sum of six thousand dollars in all, out of the profits of the Company during the past half year, as some recognition by the shareholders of the successful exertions of the directors in placing the concern once more on a dividend-paying basis." I don't think I need add much to my remarks at the general meeting on the 18th ulto. I should like, however, to remind the shareholders that, as a matter of fact, this bonus is not so much a free gift after all. For some time the directors only drew half the authorised remuneration, so that now the Company is prosperous it can well afford to cash up the deferred pay with something handsome in the way of interest. For my own part, and speaking for a large number of the shareholders, I am only too pleased to be able to take this opportunity, and this mode, of showing our appreciation of the good work done on our behalf. I only hope we may long retain their services and that the directors will take this as an encouragement to continue their unremitting efforts to maintain the Company in its present flourishing condition. (Applause.)

Mr. G. C. COX—I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution proposed by Mr. Ho Tung. The amount proposed to be voted to the directors is a substantial one, but I think you will all agree that in proportion to the services which the directors have rendered to the company it is moderate, especially in view of the fact mentioned by Mr. Ho Tung that when the company was not prosperous the directors did not draw their full fees. At the half-yearly meeting Mr. Ho Tung made some reference to the market value of the shares. If you work that out you will find that during the last four years the shareholders' property has appreciated to the extent of some 400 per cent. The shareholders are \$350,000 better now off than they were four years ago. In view of that fact I think we can very well afford to vote some handsome recognition to the directors. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

Mr. J. H. COX—I should like the Chairman to inform us if the meeting is in accordance with the Ordinances of Hongkong. By how many shareholders was the requisition signed?

The CHAIRMAN—The meeting is called by the directors under the power given them by the Articles of Association. It is not a meeting convened on the requisition of shareholders but a meeting convened by the directors.

Mr. J. H. COX contended that accounts once closed by a meeting could not be re-opened, and added that other shareholders not present were of the same opinion as himself. He did not think it was competent for them to take \$6,000 out of last half-year's accounts.

Mr. HO TUNG—for my own part I think the shareholders in extraordinary meeting have every right to withdraw any amount from any account that has been passed.

Mr. J. H. COX repeated that accounts once closed could not be re-opened. He was sorry to go in opposition to the wishes of the greater part of the gentlemen present, but that was a

business meeting, and he was sure the directors did not want to take the money out if it was illegal to do so.

Mr. HO TUNG—Will you move an amendment then, and with regard to the legal question leave the directors to consult their legal advisers?

Mr. J. H. COX—I suppose I am correct in saying that any counter resolution I might move would not be carried. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HO TUNG—We must take the sense of the meeting. If Mr. COX has any resolution or amendment to move I hope he will move it.

Mr. J. H. COX—My resolution would take the form that it is not competent for this meeting to take \$6,000 from the accounts of the past half-year.

The CHAIRMAN—That is the resolution. It has been advertised as the resolution in most distinct terms. It is competent for this meeting to pass it or negative it; but as you have raised the point I will read you article 57 of the Company's Articles of Association. It says:—"The Company may from time to time by resolution passed by at least three-fifths of the votes of the shareholders present, such three-fifths representing at least 1,500 shares of the Company, personally or by proxy, at any extraordinary meeting repeal or make new provisions in lieu of or in addition to any regulations of the Company whether contained in the Articles of Association or not." This, Mr. COX, I submit, answers your question. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GEORG asked if it would meet with Mr. COX's approval if the words "during the past half year" were taken out.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry we cannot amend it. We have no power to amend the resolution. It must be accepted or negatived in its present form.

Mr. J. H. COX—I submit that Article 57 does not apply. I read it before I came here. You are not altering any of the regulations. It is not a meeting called to alter the Articles of Association or the regulations. I am sorry the shareholders who are of my opinion are not present.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution as worded provides that the money shall be taken out of the last half-year's profits. The accounts of the last half year show a balance which has been carried forward to the present half year. Out of that balance the bonus, if you, gentlemen, approve, will be taken. If no other gentleman has any remarks to make I will now put the resolution to the meeting.

Mr. J. H. COX—I object to the resolution because this meeting is not competent to pass it.

On the resolution being put 25 out of the 29 shareholders present voted, 23 being in favour and two—Mr. J. H. COX and Captain Rowin—against, the directors not voting.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. HO TUNG and gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for the kind manner in which this resolution has been proposed and accepted by you. I should like to state that before calling this meeting the directors satisfied themselves that it was the wish of a large number of shareholders that this bonus should be given, and in fact we have in the room proxies from absent shareholders whose aggregate holding of shares totals to something like 2,000. These shareholders have authorised us or gentlemen present to vote on their behalf in favour of this bonus; so that although we are sorry there should be any dissentients it is undoubtedly the desire of a large majority of shareholders that this recognition should take place. (Hear, hear.) We shall have to trespass once more upon your generosity and patience in asking you to attend a confirmatory meeting this day fortnight in order to make the resolution legal. I thank you again for the confidence you have in us as expressed by passing this resolution. I can assure you we shall in the future as in the past give great personal care and attention to your interests. (Hear, hear.) Speaking for myself, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that by careful management your business can be made to yield you a very satisfactory return upon your investment. That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

Mr. J. H. COX—I should like to say I have not the slightest doubt a large number of shareholders will agree with this resolution, but I go upon the legality of the matter. I say that the

shareholders are not competent to take this \$6,000 out of the accounts of the last half year. The proceedings then terminated.

#### GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the manager at the mines:—

Great Eastern Mine.—The drive north has been extended to 49 feet and we are now driving on a fine solid reef of three feet width, which when broken shows good gold prospects.

Caledonian Mine.—The drive is in 56 feet in very hard ground, but the country rock is becoming intermixed with stringers of quartz, a sign that we are nearing the reef.

Bank of England.—The Shaft is down to 81 feet and the floor has sent the big reef clean into the hanging wall, whilst the footwall reef now crosses the shaft in north-easterly direction. The latter reef is as rich as ever, showing gold by candle light, but its direction will probably change again in the next 20 feet. The contractors are making good headway and we shall soon be down to 100 feet, when we shall open out.

Rise and Shine Shaft.—The contractors have not done much, owing to changing of mates, the shaft having reached the depth of 100 feet, but they of course only get paid for work done, which forms the great advantage over wages. We shall only have to go down another 15 feet before also driving here. The ground is very fine here and heavy seams of carbonates of lime promise the neighbourhood of good gold.

Zulu Shaft.—We are busy sinking the well hole, and shall open out in about 8 to 10 days. The stone we are breaking in the shaft is rich in mineral and hardly a piece of quartz comes up without showing gold. The sensation of this field is the unearthing of a phenomenally rich vein on the line of this lode in the two acres lease further up in the creek, vide plan, called Pinkerton's lease, about which I have written some time since. At a depth of about 50 feet they struck a reef 18 inches wide, and the quartz they brought to town is worth quite 200 ounces to the ton, not small pieces, but big chunks. The quartz is identical with our Zulu ore, but the main importance for our company lies in the fact that they are getting this rich gold close to our boundary, from which it underlies into their ground, so close that another 10 feet drive at the most will bring them into our ground; we are therefore sure of rich gold in another part of our property, and we should lose no time in sinking there also. Besides, the underlie of this vein is westerly and in 60 feet more depth it will be entirely in our ground.

Surface Work.—Erection of office and battery excavations are proceeding.

Part of the machinery is in Woodstock.

#### S. C. FARNSHAM AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors presented at the sixth annual general meeting, held at the head office, Shanghai, on 14th September:—

To the Shareholders of S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—It is with much pleasure the Directors submit to you their report with a satisfactory statement of accounts for the year ending 30th June last.

The works at our new Cosmopolitan Dock are progressing favourably.

Mr. Jas. R. Twentyman returned from leave in December last.

The net profits, after paying all charges, amount to Taels 194,464.50, including Taels 18,356.95, carried forward from last year.

This amount the Directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

	Tls.
A Dividend of Tls. 12.00 per Share...	90,000.00
Amount to be placed to Reserve Fund .....	75,000.00
Amount to be transferred to Depreciation and Maintenance Fund .....	10,000.00
Balance to be carried to New Account.....	19,464.50
	Tls. 194,464.50



The annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the Committee's report for the past season, and for electing the committee and officers for the forthcoming season, will be held in the Cricket Pavilion on Thursday, September 22nd, at 5 p.m. An extraordinary general meeting will be held immediately after the annual meeting for the purpose of altering Rule 3.

Present reading of Rule 3, "Five of the Committee shall form a quorum."

Proposed alteration, Rule 3, "Three of the Committee shall form a quorum."

#### A FRENCH JOURNALIST MAKES MERRY OVER THE KOWLOON EXTENSION.

We translate the following amusing squib by the Hongkong correspondent of *L'Echo de Chine* (Shanghai):—

Our readers will no doubt remember the telegram of the Peking correspondent of the *Times* announcing that on the 9th June last the Emperor of China gave to the Gracious Queen Victoria and Her successors a ninety-nine years' lease of a territory the size of a French department, adjoining the colony of Hongkong, together with two bays situated the one at the entrance of the Canton River and the other to the north of Hongkong harbour. Happy to profit by this occasion of giving pleasure to his venerable friend, the Emperor certainly thought he would also be making himself agreeable to the inhabitants of the region in question, who are near enough neighbours to Hongkong to appreciate the ineffable happiness of living henceforth under British dominion. Always amiable the English selected as the President of the Commission for the delimitation of the new frontier the Colonial Secretary, a charming, plump, and unctuous man, well known for his love of the Chinese, a sentiment so strong that at the time of his promotion to his present position he was unwilling to surrender the position (or the salary attached to it) of Official Protector of Asiatics (Registrar-General). The native population might have been expected to recognise this happy choice by sending delegations to present their chin-chins and by erecting triumphal floral arches at the entrances to all their villages. If the great man seemed happy and deigned to smile the joy of the population should have been expressed in frantic cheers. The pimply old ladies who take such a lively interest in the conversion to Protestantism of the heathen Chinese shed tears of tenderness in their tea cups as they thought of the imposing number of bibles that the new additions to the very respectable house of John Bull and Co. would consume. But everything turned out quite differently. A thousand of the inhabitants of the village of Kam Tin Hu, between Deep Bay and Taimoshan, preceded by vigorously beaten gongs, appeared before the Commission, but in place of chin-chins and flowers they came with cries of *ta* and "foreign devils." Nothing is said of the rotten eggs that emphasised these cries, but the gates of the village were closed and the Commission could not enter. The decision of the Protector of Chinese was quickly taken: "Bring up seventy-five men from the *Plover* under arms and two Maxim's." The order was rapidly executed and the Chinese, who had seen the guns at the Queen's Jubilee Review at Happy Valley, had heard that they were terrible weapons. The Commission gave them ten minutes to open the gates before firing. The villagers obeyed—and that is how relations were established between the English Government and its new subjects. The old ladies of foggy Albion's Tract Societies will have much difficulty in understanding the state of mind of these despicable wretches who ought to be so grateful to philanthropic England for having sent during the last half century so many merchants to enrich themselves at the expense of the Chinese and so many missionaries to sell bibles of all shapes. It would be an irksome task to do good to the aborigines if one had not in view some small advantages such as those obtained in Egypt, where the fellahs have been subjected to a pressure sufficiently intense to keep sumptuously a crowd of English functionaries who would be in the way anywhere else.

#### RAUB GOLD.

The Local Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, Singapore, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 8th August, 1898:—

"Crushing finished, 2,300 tons stone realized 2,075 oz. smelted gold. Battery was stopped in all six days for want of water."

This return for the last two months' work, July-August (the fourth crush of the current year), may be said to maintain the highly satisfactory quality of the previous crushings. The yield of gold per ton of stone sent through the battery is as much as 18 dwts. 1 grain of smelted gold. That is a return of about £3.10 a ton of stone, at £3.18 per ounce. The value of the two months' work, nearly a week of which was lost by want of water for the battery, amounts, in sterling to close on £8.100. The three previous crushes were as follows:—

	1898 tons stone	oz. gold	dwts. per ton.
Jan-Feb.	2,250	2,050	18.5½
March-Apr.	2,450	2,222	18.3
May-June	2,300	2,150	18.16

So far as this year has gone 9,300 tons of stone have been crushed, yielding 8,497 ounces of gold, this being an average of 18 dwt. 6½ grs. per ton. The total sterling yield of Raub this year, for eight months' work, amounts, at £3.18 per ounce, to £33,138, or, roundly, at 1s. 1d. to the dollar, to about \$330,000.

In order that these returns be understood in relation to expenditure it appears from the Company's accounts that all working charges, including depreciation, and also including the whole work of further development (which is really an addition to the value of the property) amounts to £1,500 per month. In other words, the expenditure for the eight months under notice may be estimated at £12,000, against which is to be placed an actual sterling return of £33,138 worth of gold, this leaving a profit margin of £21,138 in eight months. In other words, a working profit of 176 per cent. A call, it is true, was made on the shareholders towards the cost of the electric installation, although at the same time a dividend of like amount was declared.—*Singapore Free Press*.

#### THE EMPEROR OF CHINA ENCOURAGES FREE SPEECH.

It will be remembered that in the Imperial edict of the 1st instant of which we published a compressed translation, the Emperor commanded the delinquent Ministers of the Board of Rites "to be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate penalties." It is now learnt that when the obnoxious secretary handed his memorial to his Chiefs for transmission to the Emperor, they not only refused point blank—after reading it—to do so, but called the former up before them and rated him soundly for his audacity and insolence. To the surprise of his Chiefs, Mr. Wang Hsun, the secretary in question, not only refused to take back his memorial but stoutly maintained his right to write it. The Board of Civil Appointments having received the Emperor's edict of the 1st inst., appears to have lost no time in determining the penalties incurred by the Ministers of the Board of Rites, for an unusually prompt edict of the 4th inst. commands that "Huai Ta-pu and Hsu Ying-kuei, Manchu and Chinese Presidents of the Board of Rites; Kun Hsin and Hsu Hui-li, Manchu and Chinese Senior Vice-Presidents; Pu Ting and Tseng Kuang-han (Earl Wei-yi), Manchu and Chinese Junior Vice-Presidents of the said Board, be hereby cashiered for daring to disobey our decrees and oppose our desire to reform our government." The decree winds up by praising the resolution and moral courage of Wan Hsun, the secretary in question, in refusing to take back his words even when "threatened by a whole array of powerful Ministers." In reward for this, Wang Hsun is promoted to be a Metropolitan official of the 4th grade with the brevet rank of the 3rd grade button—a position which under ordinary circumstances it would have taken him at least twelve to fifteen years to obtain. It will also be observed that his Majesty in dealing out his punishments has been politic enough not to do so on his own ini-

tiative, but he "commands the said Board to determine the adequate penalties" his Ministers deserved, with the result noted above.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### CONSCRIPTION IN CHINA.

The following Imperial edict was issued on the 5th instant.—We have received a memorial from Chang Yin-huan saying that recently there have been many memorials presented to the Throne suggesting the advisability of inaugurating the conscription among the people of the empire, according to foreign methods, in order to make the whole population of China soldiers. The memorialist, however, thinks that this scheme is too wide for the present crisis, but that if each province organises its own volunteer corps, drilling them according to the Western methods already sanctioned by the Throne, making the members serve a certain time, and then putting them into the Reserve, their places in the corps being taken by recruits and so on, the plan would bear quicker results, especially as the volunteers could be utilised to serve as garrisons when the regular troops are needed elsewhere, while they could further be used to reinforce the regulars in emergencies. We quite agree with Chang Yin-huan's arguments, especially as these volunteer corps could be formed into the nucleus of a huge army in times of need. This plan should be put into effect at once, specially as regards the province of Kuangsi, where there is a serious rebellion among the Secret Society men. We hereby command that the Viceroys and Governors of provinces put into action at once the recommendation of Chang Yin-huan and report to us within three months what they have done in the matter; but the Viceroy and Governor of the Two Kwang provinces are to be only given one month to report to us, on pain of severe penalties.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### DUPLICATION OF THE CHINESE TELEGRAPH LINES.

Referring to great complaints that have been made at Tientsin of the delays on the telegraph line from Shanghai the *N. C. Daily News* says:—We now learn that the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration has realised that the existing lines cannot carry the enormously increased Government and private traffic, and whenever a break occurs or only one line is available, all traffic at once suffers serious delay. In order to remedy this and remove the just complaints of the public, the Administration some time ago decided partly to add more wires, partly to build a duplicate line, and the work has already been started by different parties. From Shanghai to Chinkiang a duplicate line is being constructed; from Chiukiang to Tsingkiangpu additional wires will be put up this month; from Tsingkiangpu to Chinan a duplicate line will be built as soon as the poles have been distributed. The duplicate line from Chinan to Taochou and Tientsin was finished last year, but two more wires have been added on that line. The work is being pushed on as quickly as possible and it is hoped that within two or three months the public will find no more cause for complaint.

#### REFORM AT PEKING.

An Imperial edict of the 1st instant may perhaps be taken as an indication of the struggle that is now going on at Peking between the advocates of reform, headed by the Emperor himself, and the bulk of the conservative party. It appears that a second-class secretary of the Board of Rites, named Wang Hsun, composed a memorial containing suggestions for reforming his Board, and this paper the secretary asked his superior officers, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Board of Rites, to hand to the Throne on his behalf. The plain language of the writer, denouncing the laziness of his superiors, evidently gave great offence to them and resulted in Huai Ha-pu, the Manchu President of the Board, heading a joint memorial of his colleagues denouncing in no measured terms the audacity and revolutionary ideas of their subordinate and asking that he be severely punished as a warning to others. It

must have been like a bolt from the blue when the above noted edict was issued commanding the memorialists to be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for the determination of adequate penalties, "for trying to prevent people from making suggestions to the Throne in contravention of his Majesty's previous edicts calling for suggestions from all his subjects, irrespective of rank." The edict also went on to say: "We are the best judge whether a man's memorial is audacious, traitorous, or not and we will not trouble our Ministers in the future to consider such matters for us. Henceforth, Ministers and high provincial authorities are forbidden to open and read the memorials which they are asked to present to us on behalf of the writers, and the delinquent President of the Board of Rites is now commanded to hand up to us the alleged offensive memorial of the said secretary Wang Hsün." The Reform Party may therefore be said to be triumphant over their old foes at the present moment.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### THE RECENT TYPHOON.

The following shipping reports, published by the *N. C. Daily News*, show the severity of the recent typhoon and give some idea of the havoc it wrought amongst native craft.

The agents of the Northern Pacific Steamship Co., Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., have courteously favoured us with the following report of the weather experienced by the *Columbia* on her passage from Foochow to Shanghai. Captain Gow reports that he left Foochow at daylight on Sunday, the 28th ultimo, there being no sign of an approaching typhoon; after reaching 80 miles north of Foochow the weather assumed a threatening appearance and the barometer fell rapidly. Strong winds from the N.W. were experienced, gradually hauling round to N. & N.E., blowing with terrific violence and accompanied by blinding rain. At 2 a.m. on Monday, the 29th, the barometer reached its lowest reading, viz. 27.90. Confused seas running with great force and breaking heavily; ship lying in the trough of the sea, unable to head the wind and sea. The storm still hauled more easterly and increasing with the rising barometer the ship drifted considerably to the westward. The sea anchor was rigged and did good service, seas breaking all over the ship, notwithstanding a quantity of oil being used. Owing to the exceptional violence of the wind and sea the ship continued drifting to the lee shore, soundings being frequently taken, the water was found to shoal rapidly from 24 to 16 fathoms. Starboard anchor was let go with 150 fathoms of cable and after doing good service and checking the ship's drift, during a terrific squall, the cable parted. The ship was in the midst of confused and breaking seas and the situation was indeed critical; however, the last squall seemed to break the backbone of the gale and the wind decreased, so that the ship was enabled to head off shore and proceed to Shanghai. Captain Gow, whose experience on the Pacific and the Atlantic has been considerable, reports this to be the worst blow he has ever experienced and thinks himself lucky in arriving at Shanghai with only the loss of his anchor and cable and minor damages.

The Shell Line steamer *Courier* arrived at Woosung on Thursday, having sustained severe damage during the typhoon. She encountered the full force of the blow off Turnabout; and had her decks awed and hatches stove in, some 600 tons of water finding its way below. The ship became almost unmanageable, owing to the flooding of the stoke-hole and engine-room, and all the officers, engineers, and petty officers were compelled to go below and work with the firemen in order to keep steam. During the gale the carpenter was washed overboard and drowned. The vessel was bound for Nagasaki, with a cargo of kerosene in bulk, but after the weather moderated the Captain determined to proceed to Shanghai for temporary repairs to enable the ship to continue her voyage, and as soon as they have been effected she will leave for Nagasaki.

The *Loongmoon* arrived from Hongkong on Thursday evening, 1st inst. She reports that she left port at 5 p.m. on the 27th ult., with light southerly winds and smooth sea. The

wind gradually increased to a strong S.W. gale, which blew with typhoon force on the 29th, with very heavy sea and blinding rain. The ship was hove-to until the next morning, when the wind hauled to the N.W. and the barometer began to rise, though strong winds and high sea prevailed to port. Between Ockseu and the Heachu Islands a quantity of wreckage was passed, probably the remains of junks which had foundered during the gale.

The *Neuchwang* arrived at Shanghai on Thursday evening, 1st instant, from Amoy and reports having experienced very rough weather. At 2.30 p.m. on the 28th of August anchored inside Double Peak Island. At 8 p.m. the typhoon broke upon them and continued to increase in violence until about 8 a.m. the following morning; after that the weather began to improve, and at 6 a.m. on the 31st she weighed anchor and proceeded on her voyage.

The *Chrysanthemum* which arrived on Saturday, 3rd, from Hongkong and Swatow reports: At 0.15 p.m. on the 31st of August when in Lat. 24.32 W. and Long 119.05 E. we observed a dismasted junk flying signals of distress. We bore down on her and found her to be a boat of 50 tons bound from Amoy to Taichow with a general cargo valued at \$10,000 which was damaged by water. The crew of 14 hands wished to be taken on board which we did as their vessel was in a sinking condition. At 2.25 p.m. we sighted a large waterlogged fishing-boat flying signals of distress and after bearing down on her we found a crew of 43 on board. They had been dismasted in the recent typhoon and had been without food or water for four days. The poor fellows were only too glad to come on board. We proceeded on our voyage and at 4 p.m. we observed a third vessel in a similar state but sinking rapidly. We immediately bore down on her and took off the crew of five hands and then proceeded on our voyage to Shanghai.

The blue-funnel steamer *Antenor* reports that on the passage from Amoy, at noon on the 1st inst., when off the Chinchu Islands, a lot of junk wreckage was sighted, with a dead body floating near. Shortly after a man was seen holding on to a floating spar, and the ship was stopped and the man picked up. He stated that he was the sole survivor of a crew of 18, belonging to the junk *Kim-yik-seng*, bound from Taiwanfoo to Ningpo with a cargo of sugar, which foundered in the recent typhoon on the 29th ult., the man having been three days in the water. An hour later a derelict junk was seen, with a number of fishermen alongside looting her. At 2.30 p.m., when off Ockseu, the ship was stopped in response to signals of distress from a disabled junk. There were nine people on board who said the junk had been dismasted in the typhoon five days previously, and that they had been without food and water for three days. The *Antenor* supplied them with food, firewood, and a cooking above, and left them standing in for the land under jury rig. The junk's master, in describing the affair, said, "plenty junk have go." Several other derelict junk's were sighted, but none were showing signals of distress. The *Antenor* reports that she experienced beautiful weather throughout the passage from Hongkong.

The *Japan Mail* states that the British steamer *Maroa*, Captain C. A. Adams, while on the voyage from Hongkong to Yokohama, rescued sixty-three shipwrecked Chinamen off the China coast. Fifty-six were off one large junk, and the remaining seven off another. The steamer passed several dismasted junks which were probably caught in the last typhoon off the China coast. The rescued men will be turned over to the Chinese Consul at Yokohama.

#### WEIHAIWEI.

Liukungtao, 15th August.

During my temporary absence nothing of importance has occurred here. The change of temperature was very noticeable on my return. With the thermometer at something over 90 deg. at Shanghai, it was considerably under 80 deg. at this port. On nearing the island the first thing that attracted my attention and made my heart glad, was a flock of wild ducks! A good augury of the fine sport we will have up here later on.

On the island, things have been steadily improving, new roads have been made, and many

of the old houses have been removed altogether. Consul Hopkins has gone to Chefoo again, and it seems doubtful whether he will return. In the meantime Mr. Wilkinson is in charge. The Government buildings are now connected by telephone, and the system reminds me forcibly of that of Shanghai—a sure remedy for perfecting the temper.

The death of a seaman occurred on the *Grafton* last week. Deceased had been suffering from acute dysentery for some time and finally succumbed on Friday last. He was buried on Saturday by the side of Dr. Macaulay.

To-day the few vessels in harbour dressed ship in honour of the Emperor of China's birthday, and at noon the *Grafton* fired a salute of 21 guns.

This is our rainy season and it has been raining nearly every day for a fortnight. On the 10th and 11th we had quite a heavy gale. Most of the small craft were beached, but the larger ones rode it out, sustaining little or no damage. The weather keeps very cool, as I write the thermometer standing at 76.—*Mercury correspondent.*

1st September.

For two or three weeks past there has been little of general interest occurring in connection with this place. About a week since the flagship *Centurion* returned from her cruise in Japanese waters, as did the *Victorious*, *Narcissus*, *Barfleur*, and others. At present, including destroyers, some twelve or fourteen ships are in the harbour.

At times one of the number steams out for target-practice or goes to Chefoo to coal, otherwise there is not much movement among them. Little as there is at Weihaiwei to make it an attractive place, I understand that many of them were glad to be back from Japan, owing to the fact that here it is much cooler.

Our maximum heat this summer has been about 87 in the shade, and this only on one or two days. For a month or so it ranged about 82 in the hottest part of the day, cooler at nights, and now and then a drop of eight to ten degrees in the day. And this has been, in that matter, an average summer. On Liukungtao cricket and other games have, during the whole time, been freely indulged in. It is certainly a cooler place to spend August and September than Chefoo, and in time Weihaiwei may take away much of the popularity of that place as a summer resort.

Occasional steamers now call on their way to or from Chefoo, but as yet there is little business outside supplying the Fleet; it, however, makes it possible for residents or visitors to come and go without having the trying overland journey. There is a report that a steamer belonging to a Chinese firm, but subsidised by the naval authorities, is soon to be regularly running between here and Chefoo.

Among the natives persistent and widespread reports prevail of imminent trouble between England and Russia. Yesterday had been fixed as the day when the Russian Fleet of twenty-two ships was to come along and clear out the English,—or at least attempt it. In the minds of many there seems to have been a doubt as to whether it would succeed. In recent years there have been so many changes, that to many of the population another change would not be unwelcome, especially were it brought about by a quarrel between two of the outside Western Kingdoms.

The *Fuchi* is still here, and is the only warlike (?) representative of China on hand, though some few days since the *Tungchi* paid a short visit to the harbour.

The *Waterwitch* is still here busily engaged in survey work. The harbour itself has been well surveyed and I understand given general satisfaction. In places a good deal of dredging is called for, but as the bottom is mostly mud this will not likely be a great expense. I hear that a dredger is on its way here for that work.

Some of the sunken Chinese warships have been sold to a Chinese firm, and they are busily engaged in blowing them to pieces and making what they can of the old iron, copper, etc. One hears of important improvements to be undertaken, but anything extensive will, of course, have to be sanctioned by the home authorities and what is to be made of the place in the near future probably even Lord Salisbury or Mr. Goschen have as yet no clear ideas. But it is

likely that the redoubtable and gallant Lord Charles Beresford will visit the place, and they will surely have a good many ideas and suggestions free, gratis, and for nothing on his return home, as to what to do with Weihsien.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

#### CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 14th inst. the Governor handed over his seal to the Viceroy. His Excellency will leave Canton on the 19th inst. for his native place in the province of Kiangsi. It is said that His Excellency has made up his mind to retire from active service and spend the rest of his life in retirement. The Viceroy will remove to the yamen hitherto occupied by the Governor, which is more magnificent than his own. It is said that the Viceroy's yamen will now be used as a free Government College.

Some talk has again arisen as to carrying on the reclamation work on the river bund. A Sanz has petitioned the Viceroy asking to be allowed to go on with the undertaking. The Viceroy consulted the directors of Kwang-Chai Hospital on the application and a meeting was held in the Hospital on the 6th inst. It was decided to carry on the work, the expenses of the reclamation to be borne by the owners of the water frontage.

The Canton Government has received instructions from the Throne to the effect that in order to economise the expenses of the Government a good number of petty military officers are to be discharged, that the pay of the soldiers is to be cut down by the 15th October, and that twenty per cent of the forces are to be disbanded by the 14th November. Volunteer forces are to be organised for the public protection.

News has been received from Kwangsi that the rebel leader Li Lop-ting, for whose capture a reward of five thousand dollars has been offered by the authorities, is now hiding with a number of his followers in the mountain Ng-ma-shan. The Governor of Kwangsi has sent General Sou with a number of soldiers to effect his capture. It is said that over two thousand retreating rebels, some of them females, were lately killed by the soldiers under the command of General Sou while on their way to Ng-ma-shan.

It has become known to the Customs officers that some steam launches owned by Chinese are flying flags of foreign Powers in order to evade taxation. The Customs officers and the likin people are now on the alert to discover this cunning design and to effect the arrest of the so-called foreign-owned launches.

#### HONGKONG.

No cases of infectious disease were notified last week.

We regret to state that Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., is again ill.

There were 2,175 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 206 were Europeans.

The stamp revenue last month was \$22,841, being an increase of \$824 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of last year.

Henry Kerwin, an A.B. on H.M.S. *Blenheim*, was on Thursday fined \$5, or 14 days, by Commander Hastings, for—being a discharged prisoner—attempting to convey a letter out of Victoria Gaol that morning.

On Saturday afternoon some mat-sheds on the new road leading from Plantation Road Station to Magazine Gap were burned down. It is not correct, however, as at first reported, that a Chinaman lost his life in consequence.

On Thursday morning it was discovered that during the night an attempt had been made to break into the premises in Queen's Road Central occupied by Messrs. Stauffer and Co., watch-makers, etc. In the first instance the shop of the Robinson Piano Co., next door, was entered. Having first taken the precaution to curtain the windows with some piano covers the burglar endeavoured to burst open the door which leads from Messrs. Robinson's shop to that of his neighbour. The lock gave way, but some padlocks which had been added by Messrs. Stauffer held fast, and as he found he could not force his way through without making a great noise and thus running the risk of discovery the burglar desisted and decamped.

While H.M.S. *Blenheim* was lying off Stanley on Tuesday afternoon, one of the blue-jackets went over the side on a bowline. When in the water he was seen to throw up his hands and to sink at once, never again coming to the surface.

A singular accident took place on the Praya the other morning. A meat van in charge of two men was proceeding along close to the wall when a wheel came off and the van was dashed on to a junk, which was to some extent damaged. One of the men in charge was also hurt and had to be taken to the Hospital.

The maximum temperature last month was 90.4, on the 30th, and the minimum 74.7, on the 14th. The means for the month are above those of the ten years' average. The mean maximum was 86.5, as against 85.8 for ten years, the mean minimum 78, as against 77.1, and the mean for the whole month 81.5, as against 80.9. The rainfall amounted to 9.9 inches.

Captain Setz, four officers and a boatswain, of the German wrecked steamer *Cosmopolit*, arrived at Nagasaki on the 4th September from Vladivostock. It will be remembered that a telegraphic despatch to the owners at Hongkong announced the total loss of the vessel off Saghalien. We now learn that the *Cosmopolit* was stranded on Cape Houda, off the south coast of Saghalien and to the north of Cape Aniwa, and that the crew, passengers, and cargo were saved. Among the passengers were General Subovitch, Russian Governor of the Maritime Districts, his wife, and staff. A Russian man-of-war and the German cruiser *Deutschland* rendered valuable assistance to the ship. Captain Setz has entered a protest at the local German Consulate and a marine court of inquiry will be held.—*Nagasaki Press*.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.....	\$2,917,093	\$2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	5,747,676	3,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	444,905	150,000
Total	\$9,109,674	\$5,150,000

The Roman Catholic Cathedral, which from its size and position should show up most prominently from the harbour, is now, in consequence of its incomplete condition, far from being the conspicuous building it was intended to be. The design of the sacred edifice is, however, we hear, about to be completed by the erection of the eastern tower, which will be surmounted by a lofty spire. A handsome new entrance porch at the east end will also be added. The central tower will be raised considerably and surmounted by ornamental turrets, which will add greatly to its appearance. It is matter for regret, however, that the design includes an incongruous conical roof, which will rise some fifteen or twenty feet above the turrets, instead of a flat roof with simple battlements, which if slightly more expensive would greatly enhance the architectural effect.

At the Magistracy on Saturday Li Tai, a clerk in the employ of the P. and O. Company, was charged with making false entries in the freight manifest of the steamer *Rosetta*, with intent to defraud the P. and O. Company of a sum of \$688; also with embezzling that sum. Prisoner was allowed bail of \$3,000, and was taken into the prisoners' room at the Magistracy pending the payment of the money by his friends. While the prisoner was sitting in the room, Mr. N. G. Nolan, an officer of the Court, overheard some of the prisoner's friends in the compound outside remark—"What's \$3,000? He'll clear out." The Chinese then ran away, presumably to obtain the money. Inspector Moffat reported the matter to Commander Hastings, who ordered the prisoner to be again brought before him. Evidence was given of what had occurred. Commander Hastings said the bail was fixed to ensure the prisoner remaining in the colony, not to allow him to run away. The bail money would be increased to \$7,000.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. W. C. Jack, of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, left for Mauila on Saturday in the *Esmeralda* for the purpose of reporting on the possibility of raising some of the Spanish vessels.

Weng Tung-ho, ex-Imperial Tutor, etc., arrived at Shanghai from his native city of Changshu, some forty miles distant from Soochow, on the 5th September incog. and left the same night by the steamer *Kuangkwan* for Nanking.

At Shanghai on the 6th September a large party of ladies and gentlemen assembled at Messrs. Boyd & Co.'s works to witness the launch of two vessels, built to the order of the Eastern Railway Company, for service at Talienshan. The first of the two to be launched was a tug, named *Talienshan*, which was christened as she left the ways by Miss Wehrung. This craft, which is intended for towing purposes in the Bay, is a steel vessel of 65 feet length, 14 feet beam, and 8 feet 9 in. moulded depth. Her engines are of the compound surface condensing type, with cylinders of 12 and 24 inches diameter, with a stroke of 16 inches. Steam is supplied by a single boiler, carrying a steam pressure of 100 lbs. on the square inch. The other vessel, which was christened the *Lasian* by the little daughter of M. and Mme. Dmitrevsky, is a lighter, one of four building by Messrs. Boyd and Co. for the same owners, of a carrying capacity of 500 tons on a mean draft of 8 feet. After the launch the party adjourned to the messroom of the works, where the usual toasts were honoured.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### TEA.

SHANGHAI, 10th September.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.)—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were under date 29th ultimo. London deliveries of China Congou for August were 1,960,000 lbs., and the Stock is 9,250,000 lbs. We have received a telegram from R. B. Moorhead, E-q., Commissioner of Customs at Hankow, reading: "Viceroy agrees to Foreigners entering Tea Company." We await details by letter. Back Tea.—There is a desire to buy if suitable qualities could be obtained, but Russian demand at Hankow absorbs all available supplies of Oolong and Oenan Teas at prices which would be unobtainable on this Market. A small business is passing in Kiukiang district Teas at fully former rates. The total export to Great Britain promises to be under 9 millions, and to the United States and Canada under 5 million pounds.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow ... 1,417	1-chests. at Tls. 18½ to 20½ picul.
Keemun .... 591	" " 18½ to 23 "
Kuton .... 214	" " 19
Wenclow ... 80	" " 17
Oenan .... 129	" " 16½
Oopacks..... 100	" " 14

2,531 ½-chests.

Stock, 8,823 ½-chests.

Green Teas.—Sales from New York are about 10 per cent under July values, whilst London remains about on a level with previous telegraphed prices.

Pingsuys.—New York Arbitrators in some cases confirm the decisions of the Inspectors in rejecting lines of the new crop Tea. We have already commented upon the senseless injustice of such rejections, whereby good wholesome Tea is prevented from being imported, and the whole trade is kept in a state of uncertainty as to what will be admitted and what rejected, but the hope that the Arbitrators would reverse the decisions of the Inspectors has not been fulfilled, and it only remains now for the Importers to agitate until the Bill is rescinded. It is impossible to believe that any body of traders will allow a trade to be thus injured, perhaps ruined, without making a strong effort to get the law repealed. The market here is unchanged, but a small amount of unreported business has been done at Tls. 37 to Tls. 48 for extra first Gunpowders, and Taels 16 to 19 for third Gunpowders. Country Teas.—During the early part of the interval Teamen continued to force their "fine" Mayne Teas, and only a small daily business was done at irregular prices, but generally in favour of buyers. "Choice" Teas, however, being in better demand did not show the same weakness and remain almost unchanged. Many Tienkai Teas have

been withheld from the market waiting for something like a demand to arise before they were offered for sale. In the past few days the aspect of the market has changed, and buying has become much more general, though the demand still looks spasmodic. Teas are cheap enough to pay well if the duty-free stocks in the United States are sufficiently reduced to let the dutiable Teas find a market. There are orders in the market for more second and third Young Hysons than were ever produced in one season, and prices range from Tls. 18 to Tls. 13 a picul: the business done being chiefly between Foreigners. Fychows and Local packs call for no remarks. Native Teamen are losing heavily.

Settlements reported are:—

Pingsuey .....	1,805	Single lines.
Moyune .....	11,557	at Tls. 20 to 43½ a picul
Tienkai .....	4,604	" 20 to 35½ "
Fychow .....	196	" 18 "
Local packed.....	681	" 21½ "

18,843 ½-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

1898-99.		
Settlements.	Stock.	
½-chts.	½-chts.	
Pingsuey .....	21,258	21,424
Moyune .....	22,880	
Tienkai .....	18,418	32,428
Fychow .....	7,947	
Local packed .....	12,219	4,173
Total.....	82,722	58,025

  

1897-98.		
Settlements.	Stock.	
½-chts.	½-chts.	
Pingsuey .....	54,463	23,785
Moyune .....	29,079	
Tienkai .....	35,738	7,158
Fychow .....	11,686	
Local packed .....	12,945	636
Total.....	153,911	31,579

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

1898-99		1897-98	
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	9,912,991	10,503,236	
Foochow .....	8,979,239	8,826,695	
Amoy.....	179,934	384,312	
Canton.....	2,423,739	2,998,927	
	21,495,953	22,713,170	

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1898-99		1897-98	
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	5,865,364	8,211,786	
Amoy .....	5,242,951	7,826,120	
Foochow .....	3,802,481	4,385,894	
	14,910,796	20,423,800	

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

1898-99		1897-98	
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	15,087,125	18,418,964	
Kobe .....	6,923,619	9,682,782	
	21,480,744	18,181,746	

#### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

1898-99		1897-98	
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	21,776,036	19,338,134	

#### SILK.

CANTON, 2nd September.—Teatrees and Re-reels are very firm. A few settlements of Re-reels No. 1 Grant are reported at \$600. Filatures.—Business has been checked by the high demands of the holders and the demand from Lyons has dropped almost completely. Stocks here, as well as in Europe being small, there is reason to think that if dealers were to give way somewhat, an active business would ensue. From prices paid we quote: \$800 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$750 for Mee Kee 13/15, \$745 for Shun Kee 13/15, \$740 for Kwong Ho 13/15, and Sui Lun Hing 13/15, \$690/\$680 for Kwong Sui Lun and Hop Wo Loong and Yee Wo Lun 11/31. \$685 for Victoria 16/20, \$660/\$645 for Hin Lun and Yee Wo Lun 13/15. Short-reels—Have been in fair enquiry. From prices paid we quote: \$730 for Sun Ya Lun 14/16, \$720 for Kum Lun

Cheong 14/16, \$715 for Man Po Sing 14/16, \$700 for Kin Cheong Loong 14/16; \$685 for Good No. 8 14/16, \$665 for good No. 3 14/18. Waste.—moderate business has been done at former rates.

SHANGHAI, 10th September.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—The London quotation for Blue Elephants is still 10.16, and the market remains quiet. Gold Kilings are quoted from Lyons at Tls. 27. Raw Silk.—The total amount of business done in all qualities is more than for the past two weeks, but with the exception of a small parcel of Gold Kilings taken at Tls. 450, a drop of Tls. 5 from last sales, there has been nothing doing in Tsatees. In Coarse Silks transactions to the extent of 500 bales have been reported. Tael prices show a decline of Tls. 2½ to 5. There has been a good demand for Yellow Silks and fully 350 bales have changed hands; prices are steadier, but have a weak tendency in certain low qualities. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, September 3rd to 9th are: 916 bales White, 205 bales Yellow, and 225 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—A small business is still being done in Steam Filatures market chocks. Some transactions have also been put through in Hand Filatures and Re-reels for America. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 759 bales to the Continent, 550 bales to America, and 36 bales to England. Wild Silks.—About 100 bales have been settled on the basis of quotations below. Waste Silks.—Transactions are on a small scale, the demand being chiefly for Curlies, of which a few lots have been taken, settlements are as follows:—

piculs, at Tls.  
250 300 Curlies, 60 p. c. I, 30 p. c. II, 10 p. c. III..... 44.44

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

1898-99		1897-98	
bales.	bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	21,501	22,213	
Canton .....	10,292	7,685	
Yokohama.....	3,811	2,044	
	35,604	31,942	

#### CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 16th September.—The firmness last reported has disappeared and prices are lower. Quotations for Formosa are \$43.50 to \$43.75. Sales, 240 piculs.

#### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th September.—The market continues brisk. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.52 to 7.55 per pic. do. " 2, White... 7.30 to 7.35 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.95 to 4.98 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.83 to 4.85 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.45 to 7.48 " do. " 1, White... 7.24 to 7.27 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... \$4.83 to 4.87 per pic. do. " 2, Brown... 4.75 to 4.78 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 11.25 to 11.30 " Shekloong " 10.95 to 10.98 "

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per British bk., *Crown of Germany*, sailed on the 7th September. From Hongkong for New York:—29,288 rolls matting, 300 cases cassia lignea, 500 bales cassia lignea, 1,500 bales broken cassia, 1,124 bales rattancore, 1,500 bales hemp, 1,100 cases palm leaf fans, 160 cases heather brushes, 40 bales rattan split, 30 cases tea twine, and 60 bags merchandise.

Per steamer *Patroclus*, sailed on the 8th September. For London:—4,509 boxes tea, 102 bales waste silk, 230 cases hemp, 350 casks and 2,000 cases preserves, 70 cases essential oil, 41 cases cigars, 5 cases blackwoodware, 58 packages shells, and 12 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester.—250 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—490 bales waste silk, 1 case cigars, and 2 packages sundries. For Liverpool:—16 cases cigars and 1 package sundries. For Antwerp:—20 cases bristles.

Per steamer *Salazie*, sailed on the 10th Sept. For France:—619 bales raw silk, 8 cases silk piece goods, 150 bales waste silk, 2 packages matting, 7 cases mats, 20 cases cassia oil, 25 packages tea, 16 packages woodware, 7 cases Chinaware, 13 cases curios, 4 bales hair. For Milan:—30 bales raw silk. For London:—75 bales raw silk.

#### OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 16th September.—Bengal.—There has been an improvement in the rates owing to strengthening advices from India, the market closing rather quiet, however, at \$770 for New Patna and at \$750 for New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been very little doing during the past week. Current figures are as under:—

New (this yr's.) \$760 with all nce. of 1 to 2 cty. Old (2/4 yrs.) \$800 " " of 1 to 2 "

" (5/6 " ) \$850 no allowance (nom.)

Persian.—The market has ruled very quiet. Latest figures are \$550 to \$680 for Oily, and \$650 to \$760 for Paper-wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna.		New Benares.		Malwa.	
Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.
903		105		"	"
		190		"	"
		44		"	"
		309		"	"
		158			

METALS.—Tin.—100 slabs Foong Chai at \$14.50, 100 slabs Siam at \$42.80.
COTTON YARN. per bale Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. .... 63.00 to 92.00 English—Nos. 16 to 24..... 104.00 to 110.00 ,, 22 to 24..... 105.00 to 111.00 ,, 28 to 32..... 118.00 to 123.00 ,, 38 to 42..... 127.00 to 132.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece Grey Shirtings—6lbs. .... 1.72 to 1.82 7lbs. .... 1.97 to 2.05 8.4 lbs. .... 2.40 to 3.15 9 to 10 lbs. .... 3.80 to 4.10 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50 58 to 60 .. 2.70 to 3.35 64 to 66 .. 3.45 to 4.80 Fine ..... 4.30 to 7.00 Book-folds. .... 3.70 to 5.60 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.64 to 1.30 T.-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72 7lbs. (32 ..) .. 1.85 to 2.10 6lbs. (32 ..), Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82 7lbs. (32 ..) .. 2.05 to 2.75 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20 Drills, English—40 yds., 13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> to } 3.65 to 5.05 14lbs ..... } 14lbs ..
FANCY COTTONS Turkey Red Shirtings—1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> to } 1.50 to 4.85 8lbs. .... } 8lbs. .... Brocades—Dyed ..... 3.00 to 5.60 per yard Damasks ..... 0.12 to 0.16 Chintzes—Assorted ..... 0.08 to 0.14 Velvets—Black, 22 in..... 0.20 to 0.45 Velveteens—18 in. .... 0.17 to 0.18 per dozen Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90
WOOLLENS per yard Spanish Stripes—Sindry chops. 0.60 to 1.40 German ..... 1.15 to 1.50 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.25 to 5.25 per piece Long Ells—Scarlet ..... 6.50 to 8.50 Assorted ..... 6.60 to 8.60 Camlets—Assorted ..... 12.50 to 32.50 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, } 11.00 to 20.00 Assorted } 11.00 to 20.00 Orleans—Plain ..... 7.00 to 8.50 per pair Blankets—8 to 12lbs. .... 3.50 to 14.00
METALS per picul Iron—Nail Rod ..... 3.60 to — Square, Flat Round Bar ... 3.75 to — Swedish Bar ..... 5.50 to — Small Round Rod ..... 4.15 to — Hoop $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11/2 in., ..... 5.25 to — Wire 13/25 ..... 8.50 to — Old Wire Rope ..... 1.50 to 2.50 Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.40 to — Australian ..... 8.30 to — Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 32.00 to — Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 32.00 to — Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 31.50 to — Composition Nails ..... 46.00 to — Japan Copper, Slabs..... 32.00 to — Tiles ..... 30.75 to — Tin ..... — to — per box. Tin-Plates ..... 6.00 to — per cwt. case Steel $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ ..... 5.25 to —
SUNDRIES per picul Quicksilver ..... 138.00 to — per box Window Glass ..... 4.55 to — per 10-gal. caes Kerosene Oil ..... 1.98 to —
SHANGHAI, 10th September.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—Dulness continues the prevailing feature of this market, although there are not wanting signs that the worst period to be anticipated has been reached at last. This has not been shown in any increase in the sales effected, nor indeed in the fresh indent orders booked, for both have been on little more than a retail scale, but there seems to be more earnestness about the enquiries and greater life was displayed at the Auctions. The general opinion amongst Importers seems to be that, but for the rise in Exchange which has taken place this week, there would have been more buying—now, of course the dealers want to wait and see what the next move will be. If it will only keep steady for a week at a time they might be encouraged to operate, for there is no doubt supplies are wanted and the trade is being carried on with just sufficient to satisfy the direst necessities of the moment. Nothing can be gathered from the private sales reported; they

are too small to be any criterion of what the market is, but the recovery in Auction prices is of some significance, although they had certainly dropped unconscionably low. There is nothing of importance to mention with regard to our dependencies, except that dearth of money seems to be a common complaint with all of them. If a man has to borrow money at 15 per cent., or over, to buy Piece Goods he does without them as long as possible is the way an intelligent dealer put it to us. Deliveries as a rule have been poor in most directions, Korea being the notable exception, a direct steamer having been despatched this week after an unusually long interval. A delegate of the Syndicate that was the only outcome of the Blackburn Mission to China, has been here recently with a view to establishing a Cotton Mill in Shanghai, but on closer acquaintance with the place has apparently come to the wise conclusion that it had better be left alone, as it is evidently not the soft thing it looked two years ago. The idea now seems to be to start a "cut price" business here and endeavour to push the Lancashire trade in that way! He apparently thinks that Importers here are making too much out of the business now, and that if the whole of the trade was run by the Syndicate it would be possible to sell goods to the natives a few candareens a piece cheaper and so induce a greater consumption. That is not going to do the trick. It is simply, as we have repeatedly stated, by cheapening the means of transport into the interior that any appreciable difference will be seen in the consumption of imported fabrics, which, as the Report of the Mission shows, are only found in any quantity in the neighbourhood of the Treaty Ports.

METALS, 12th September.—(From Messrs. Alex Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—Money has been very tight. In Metals there has been very little enquiry even, and fewer transactions, the following being all that has been reported:—50 tons New Bale Hoops at 155 s., c.i.f.

kong Cottons, are taken from Shanghai circulars. Hongkong Cottons could be placed at 847.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have changed hands at \$12, Star Ferries at \$8.85 to \$9, Green Islands remain on offer without finding buyers, and China Providents have been negotiated at \$9.25.

Closing quotations are as follow:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & Sh'hai...	\$125	205 % prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£4	£0 10s. 6d., sales
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares .....	£8	£17
Founders Shares...	£1	\$17, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sales
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$154, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo... ....	Tls. 100	Tls. 87 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Hongkong .....	\$70	\$47, buyers
International .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Lau Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 87 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Soychee .....	Tls. 500	Tls. 450
Yahloong .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 60
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$6	\$5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27, sellers
Do. New Issue.....	\$5	\$16, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	£125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$84
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$52, sales
Hongkong Ice .....	\$25	\$108, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$63, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$162, buyers
H. & W. Dock .....	\$125	245 p. ct. prem=
<b>Insurances—</b>		
Canton.....	\$50	\$180, buyers
China Fire .....	\$20	\$95, sellers
China Traders' .....	\$25	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$330, sellers
North-China .....	£25	Tls. 180
Straits .....	\$20	\$9, sellers
Union .....	\$50	\$215, sellers
Yangtsze .....	\$60	\$129
<b>Land and Building—</b>		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$65, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8.50, sal. & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
West Point Building	\$40	\$18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sales
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$42
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages .....	Fce. 500	\$10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$5.25, sellers
Jelebu .....	\$5	\$1.25, sales
New Balmoral .....	\$1	20 cts., sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	30 cts., sales
Oliver's Mines, A....	\$5	\$1, sellers
Do. B....	\$2	\$3.60, sales
Punjom .....	\$5	\$1.25, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.50
Raubs .....	14s. 10d.	\$34 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sales & buyers
New Amoy Dock .....	\$6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	\$14
<b>Steamship Coy.—</b>		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$78
China Mutual Ord...	£10	£9 10s., buyers
Do. Preference ...	£10	£5 10s.
Do. Do. ..	£5	£3
Douglas S. S. Co. ....	\$50	\$58 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> , sales & sellers
H. Canton and M....	\$15	\$25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Indo-China S. N....	£10	£54
Star Ferry .....	· \$7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	\$9, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co. ....	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. ....	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos .....	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do. ....	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co. ....	\$37 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	\$41
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$12, buyers
<b>J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.</b>		

SHANGHAI, 12th September.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—There has been a little more business done this week, with small change in rate. Banks.—Hongkong and Shang-hai Banking Corporation.—Business has been confined to a cash sale at 203 per cent premium, and a sale for delivery on the 30th current at 206 per cent premium. Marine Insurance.—Yangtsze shares were placed at \$130. North Chinas are wanted at Tls. 180, but are held for Tls. 190. Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton & Macao, Steamboat shares were sold to Hongkong at \$24.50. Indo-China S. N. shares were placed at Tls. 40.75 cash and for the 31st January at Tls. 42. Cash shares are offering on the same terms. China Mutual S. N. ordinary shares changed hands at Tls. 23. Sugar

**Companies.**—*Bera* Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 39.56 cash and Tls. 40.50 for December. China Sugar Refining shares changed hands in Hongkong at 155, and are offering. **Mining.**—*Raub Australian Gold Mining* shares were sold at \$85. Docks, Wharves and Goowns. —*S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.* Shares have changed hands at Tls. 170. Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares have been placed for delivery on the 30th current at Tls. 78. **Lands.**—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 83 to Tls. 82 cash and Tls. 83 for the 30th current. Hongkong Land Investment shares were placed to Hongkong at \$65. **Industrial.**—International Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 90 for September, Tls. 92 for November, Tls. 93 for December, and Tls. 95 for February. *Iaou-kung-mow* shares at Tls. 90 for October, and *Soy Chee* shares at Tls. 450; *Yah Loong* shares are wanted at Tls. 60. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 95, and *China Flour Mill* shares at Tls. 51. There is some enquiry for shares in the New Ice Co. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—*Shanghai Tug Boat* shares were placed at Tls. 200, and *Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares at Tls. 160. **Miscellaneous.**—*Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares have been sold at prices ranging from Tls. 70 to 72 cash, and Tls. 72 for the 30th current. *Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco* shares were sold at Tls. 120, but the receipt of a favourable telegram on the 8th instant caused a demand for shares, and business was done for cash at Tls. 130 to Tls. 135 and Tls. 165 for December. *Hall & Holtz* shares were sold at Tls. 38. **Loans.**—*Shanghai-Langkat* 10 per cent. Debentures were placed at par, plus the accrued interest.

**EXCHANGE.**

FRIDAY, 16th September.

## ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Bills, on demand .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight .....	1/11 $\frac{1}{4}$

## ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand .....	2.44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, at 4 months' sight .....	2.48 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ON GERMANY.—

On demand .....	1.97 $\frac{1}{2}$
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## ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand .....	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
Credits, 60 days' sight .....	48 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	145
Bank, on demand .....	145 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer .....	145
Bank, on demand .....	145 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight .....	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
Private, 30 days' sight .....	73 $\frac{1}{2}$

## ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand .....	2 % pm.
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## ON MANILA.—

On demand .....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % pm.
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## ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand .....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % pm.
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## SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate .....

10.14
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## GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael .....

54.00
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**TONNAGE.**

HONGKONG, 16th September.—During the period under review a fair amount of chartering has been done. From Saigon to Hongkong the rate is about 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents and there is very little demand for tonnage at this figure; to two ports Java the freight has fallen to 21 cents per picul for October loading. A number of boats have been fixed from Java to this at from 27 cents to 30 cents for 2/3 ports loading. Japan coal freights.—From Moji to Hongkong, steamers are wanted at \$ .85 per ton, to Singapore \$2.75. Sailing vessels.—Two vessels have been taken for Callao at about 28s. per ton of 50 cubic feet. There are three disengaged vessels in port, registering 6,320 tons.

The following are the settlements:

*State of Maine*—American ship, 1,467 tons, proceeds Manila, in ballast.

*Victor*—Norwegian bark, 532 tons, hence to Callao, £1,100.

*Windsor Castle*—British bark, 613 tons, hence to Callao, £1,500.

*Haner*—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.85 per ton.

*Kausang*—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.85 per ton.

*Nanyang*—German steamer, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.85 per ton.

*Claverhill*—British steamer, 1,829 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

*Petrarch*—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

*Tetartos*—German steamer, 1,312 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.75 per ton.

*Martha*—German steamer, 1,530 tons, Karatzu to 1 port \$2.75, 2 ports \$3.25 per ton, Philippines.

*Trym*—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, Moji to Canton, \$2.30 per ton.

*Rio*—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

*Rheingold*—German steamer, 648 tons, Saigon to the Philippines, private terms.

*Hin Sang*—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Saigon to 1 port north coast of Java, 25 cents per picul.

*China*—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per picul.

*Chunsang*—British steamer, 1,418 tons, 3 ports north coast of Java to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul.

*Petrarch*—German steamer, 1,252 tons, 3 ports north coast of Java to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul.

*Hin Sang*—British steamer, 1,536 tons, 3 ports Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

*On Sang*—British steamer, 1,787 tons, 3 ports Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.

*Tetartos*—German steamer, 1,812 tons, 2/3 ports Java to Hongkong, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 cents per picul.

*Germany*—German steamer, 1,775 tons, 2/3 ports Java to Hongkong, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 cents per picul.

*Germany*—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to 2 ports north coast of Java, 26 cents per picul.

*Martha*—German steamer, 1,530 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama and/or Kobe 25 cents 1 port, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per picul 2 ports.

*Dagmar*—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

*Activ*—Danish steamer, 426 tons, Amoy to Manila and back to Hongkong, \$4,500.

*Unity*—Norwegian steamer, 1,013 tons, monthly, 6/6 months, private terms.

*Aske*—Danish steamer, 759 tons, monthly, 3/1 month, private terms.

**VESSELS ON THE BERTH.**

For LONDON.—*Dardanus* (str.), *Alesia* (str.), *Manila* (str.), *Sutlej* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.), *Ixion* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Darmstadt* (str.).

For MARSEILLE.—*Hitachi Maru* (str.), *Indus* (str.), *Suevia* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Doric* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B. C.—*Tacoma* (str.).

For TACOMA.—*Tacoma* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Indravelli* (str.), *Prince Arthur*, *Macduff* (str.), *Governor Robie*, *Adolph Orbig*, *Paul Revere*, *Josephus*.

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Suevia* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuen* (str.).

**SHIPPING.**

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

September— ARRIVALS.

9. *Hansa*, German str., from Rangoon.

10. *Fushun*, Chinese str., from Canton.

10. *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.

10. *Taiwan Maru*, Jap. str., from Moji.

10. *Doric*, British str., from San Francisco.

10. *Chiynue*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

10. *Chowtai*, British str., from Bangkok.

10. *Hongkong*, French str., from Haiphong.

10. *Natal*, French str., from Marseilles.

10. *Triumph*, German str., from Haiphong.

10. *Wuotan*, German str., from Moji.

11. *Gisela*, Austrian str., from Singapore.

11. *Monmouthshire*, British str., for Nagasaki.

11. *Activ*, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.

11. *Preussen*, German str., for Europe.

11. *Liv*, Norwegian str., for New York.

11. *Mourino*, German str., for Kiao Chow.

11. *Taichow*, British str., for Bangkok.

11. *Wittenberg*, German str., for Yokohama.

11. *Wuotan*, German str., for Saigon.